NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

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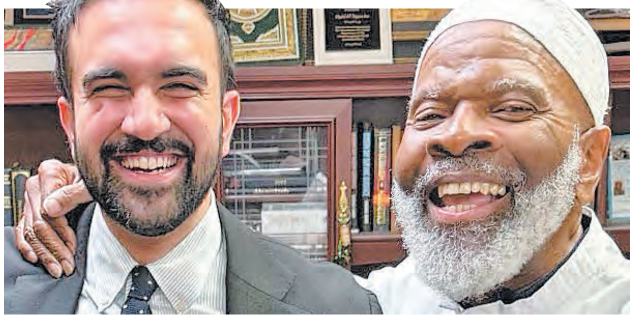
Thousands of 9/11 families demand Mamdani be banned from 25th-anniversary ceremony

STAY AWAY



Families of 9/11 victims are demanding Mayor Mamdani (pictured embracing Imam Siraj Wahhaj, an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 WTC bombing) be barred from 25th-anniversary ceremony at Ground Zero, and have collected more than 3,600 petition signatures in less than a week. "Our objection is based on his public record — his failure to meaningfully acknowledge the horror of that day, and his employment of, support for, or association with individuals who have minimized 9/11, defended terrorists, or even suggested America 'deserved' the attacks," said Giovanni Galante, whose 29-year-old wife Grace was among the 2,977 innocents killed.

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AP; X via Zohran Mamdani (inset)

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SPEAKER JULIE MENIN

IT TAKES A STRONG WOMAN TO BAN DANGEROUS HORSE CARRIAGES!

YOU WILL MAKE HISTORY BY CREATING A SAFER CITY, BETTER JOBS FOR WORKERS AND PROTECTING ANIMALS.

NYCLASS

The skinny on nudie beaches

Here's the naked truth about the country's favorite nude beaches.

Taking first place is California's Baker Beach, which averaged over 1.1 million Google searches across the last 12 months, with a solid Tripadvisor rating of 4.5, according to the travel experts at Hoppa.

The fleshy top spot boasts jaw-dropping views of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Florida's Haulover Beach grabbed second place with 866,000 searches and a 4.5 Tripadvisor rating.

The Miami hot spot is one of America's best-known nude beaches, welcoming sun worshippers from across the globe.

Black's Beach in San Diego, Calif., scored third, with 817,000 searches and a 4.4 rating. Its dramatic cliffs and sprawling coastline have made it a long-time favorite.

Hawaii also has plenty of skin in the game.

Secret Beach in Kauai ranked fourth, while Maui's spectacular Red Sand Beach landed seventh. Kehena Beach in the Puna District rounded out the island state's impressive trio to take ninth place.

Florida's Playalinda Beach took fifth place, while New Jersey's Gunnison Beach on the Sandy Hook peninsula was sixth. *Jeanne Erickson*

High-rising NYC fear of 13th fl.

The power of numerical superstitions influences people more than they care to admit, including this foible present in nearly every New York City high-rise, a new study says.

NYC developers skip "unlucky" floor number 13 in 91% of all high-rise buildings, according to a report from online casino McLuck.

Buildings jump straight from floor 12 to 14. Others will rename the floor "12A", or repurpose it to avoid being cursed.

Apartments that do carry the number 13 sell less often than equivalent units, the study claimed. *Nick Labbat*

Sofia's 'Hellas' of a vacay

sofiavergara/Instragram

Only the Aegean Sea can match the beauty of legendary Sofia Vergara, 54, as the actress sails off the coast of Greece on vacation in a lovely lacey summer outfit. The "Modern Family" alum's latest project is the dark comedy flick "Thumb," due out soon.

IT AIN'T NO *DINE* A DOZEN

Bravest eaters in DC

By JEANNE ERICKSON

It's a brave new world in Washington, DC, home to the most adventurous eaters in the US.

In the nation's capital, enthusiastic diners seek out stomach-churning eats like the Filipino delicacy balut (inset) — a gloopy duck-egg dish with a nearly developed embryo inside; or casu martzu, a stinky bowl of Sardinian sheep milk cheese crawling with live fly maggots; and surströmming, a Swedish fermented herring with a smell so vile it's been banned on several airlines.

And that's just for starters.

A new survey from the meal kit delivery service HelloFresh has ranked America's most adventurous eaters, revealing where fearless taste-bud warriors are most likely to say, "Sure, I'll try that."

The survey counted up Google searches as a way to peek into the meals folks are most curious about — and willing to swallow.

In the US capital, which stood out by a huge margin with an average of 14,370 searches for 100,000 people, the boundary-pushing residents went on the hunt for Korean kimchi, and khash — an Armenian dish featuring gelatinous beef feet and tripe soup.

Then there's Japanese natto, with its sticky, stringy fermented soybeans that stretch like melted cheese — but smell far less inviting.

Hawaii came in second with 8,447 searches per 100,000 people, who were on the search for savory beef tongue and creamy sea urchins.

Not far behind was Washington State with an average of 7,305 searches per 100,000 people. Foodies there are big fans of the super-spicy Vietnamese broth pho and Korean BBQ, per the survey.

Closing out the top four is California, where discerning eaters seem more than happy to swap the familiar for every international cuisine imaginable with 7,053 searches per 100,000 people.

New York with 6,025, searches per 100,000 people, took seventh place. Big Apple searches included Scottish haggis — a savory pudding of sheep's heart, liver, and lungs with onions and spices — and any form of octopus and egusi soup, a West African concoction of seafood, snails and cow skin.

At the opposite end of the table sits West Virginia, which ranked as America's least adventurous state when it comes to trying unusual foods with a mere 1,790 people searching for exotic foods.

It's joined near the bottom by Mississippi (1,842), South Dakota (2,330), North Dakota (2,402) and Kentucky (2,407), with folks there more inclined to go for comfort food like mac and cheese or fried chicken rather than take a chance on kooky culinary daredevilry.

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK

- Midday Nos. Sat.: **963**
- Midday Win-4 Sat.: **2085**
- Midday Take-5 Sat.: **3, 16, 17, 34, 36**
- Evening Nos. Sat.: **832**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **1279**
- Evening Take-5 Sat.: **1, 3, 7, 10, 17**
- Lotto Sat.: **8, 17, 21, 23, 54, 58**; Bonus: **16**
- Pick-10 Sat.: **5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 29, 31, 34, 38, 45, 46, 59, 70, 75, 76**
- Millionaire for Life Sat.: **17, 29, 30, 33, 34**; MB: **1**
- Powerball Sat.: **3, 4, 24, 36, 47**; PB: **17**; PP: **x4**; DP: **20, 21, 26, 28, 32**; PB: **10**

NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Sat.: **674;** Fireball: **7**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **2008;** Fireball: **7**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **9, 14, 27, 35, 40**; Xtra: **x3**

CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Sat.: **147;** Wild: **8**
- Play-4 Sat.: **1339;** Wild: **0**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **7, 8, 12, 17, 20**

$800M Mega dreams come Tuesday

The Mega Millions jackpot shot up to $800 million Saturday because no player won the grand prize in Friday's drawing, continuing the four-month winless drought that propelled the prize to the tenth-highest in the game's history.

Players have their next shot at glory Tuesday.

Friday's winning numbers were 2, 5, 42, 44 and 60, and the gold Mega Ball 1 for a $743 million prize, officials announced. No players had all five white balls, but 13 tickets matched four of them and the gold Mega Ball to win $20,000 to $40,000.

California led the pack with five third-tier winners, followed by two players each in Florida and Ohio, along with winners in Georgia, South Carolina, Idaho and Missouri.

Mega Millions has gone 37 consecutive drawings without a jackpot winner. The last one was The Happy Trails Trust, which took $60 million in Van Wert, Ohio, on March 17, a week after an anonymous online player in Illinois got $536 million.

They are the only times the grand prize has been won this year. The chances of winning the jackpot are 1 in 290,472,336.

The new jackpot is the game's largest prize since Nov. 14, 2025, when a Georgia ticketholder won $983 million, currently the eighth-largest in history.

The winner, who remained anonymous, chose a one-time cash sum of $453.6 million before taxes.

Nicholas McEntyre

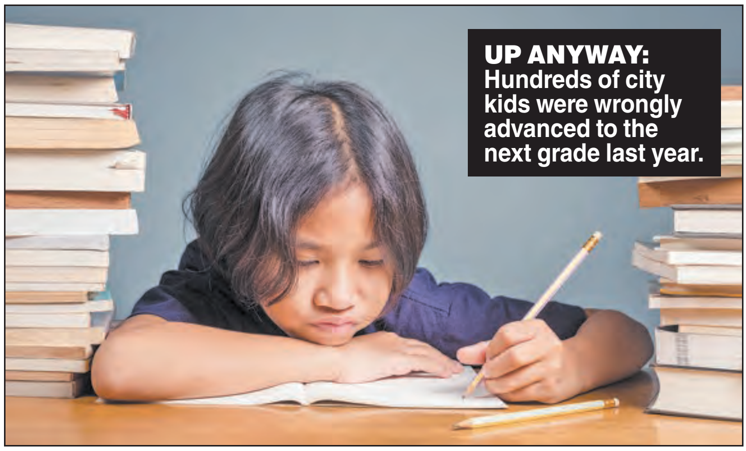
City's schools using pass-fail(ed) system

By DAVID SPECTOR

City public schools held back just 0.4% of students in grades 3 through 8 last year, although over 40% flunked standardized reading and math tests.

Around 3% of students in those grades did not meet the requirements to advance, but most of them were promoted anyway, according to the city Department of Education.

"This is educational malpractice," Jean Hahn, vice president of Parent Leaders for Accelerated Curriculum Education, a pro-merit advocacy organization, told The Post.



UP ANYWAY: Hundreds of city kids were wrongly advanced to the next grade last year.

patpitchaya - stock.adobe.com

The number of students held back in city schools has fallen dramatically since Chancellor's Regulation A-501 was implemented in 2014.

Then-Mayor Bill de Blasio allowed schools to use "holistic" criteria outside of standardized tests — including report card grades and other examples of academic performance — to determine math and language proficiency.

"Course grades are designed to reflect students' demonstrated mastery of those standards — not simply attendance, behavior, or time spent in class — and students must meet course expectations to earn credit," a DOE spokesperson told The Post.

In 2010, when 990,000 students were enrolled in city schools, 1.15% of students were left back. From 2021 to 2025, city schools held back 0.3% of fifth- through eighth-graders, according to a DOE spokesperson.

A little over half of city students managed to pass standardized math and reading tests in 2025, despite the city spending $36,293 per pupil.

The practice of passing along students to the following grade regardless of performance is referred to as "social promotion" and has been a thorn in the side of education advocates for decades.

Forty-three percent of the city's current 912,000 public students attend failing schools, according to a July report from the Success Academy Charter Schools network.

Fewer than half of students in 906 public schools are passing standardized tests in reading or math, the report found.

A third of the schools have been listed as failures for decades and some have been on city "accountability" lists since 2012.

"The DOE must do a better job communicating to families and students when they are not at grade level and stopping automatic promotion," Manhattan Institute Fellow Danyela Egorov told The Post.

"This policy does not work and leads students to struggle with basic math and reading classes in college."

'Commies' are coming for the kids

The Democratic Socialists of America are plotting a radical takeover of NYC public schools, with comrades admitting they want to mold a new generation of baby Bolsheviks, The Post has learned.

Maureen Fadem — yet another nutty professor working for a CUNY school — called for kids to be educated in a "democratic socialist frame" and to be taught the godfathers of communism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, despite their writing inspiring some of the most murderous dictators in history, from Stalin to Mao.

"Overhaul the curriculum in a class consciousness frame. . . . The curriculum as a whole needs to be relooked at, revisioned and reframed," the CUNY Kingsborough Community College professor said.

Former Community Education Council 2 President Maud Maron warned that parents should beware the power-hungry radicals.

"Childless apparatchiks seeking access to other people's children in order to convert them to their beliefs is the definition of grooming," Maron told The Post. The DSA educators vowed to "leverage" their ties to socialist Mayor Mamdani to get their agenda through.

David Spector

PER‘ZO’NA NON GRATA

By RICH CALDER

Families of 9/11 victims are demanding Mayor Mamdani be banned from the 25th anniversary of the attacks at Ground Zero, branding him an apologist for Islamic terror whose presence would be an insult to the memories of nearly 3,000 people murdered.

“Our objection is based on his public record — his failure to meaningfully acknowledge the horror of that day, and his employment of, support for, or association with individuals who have minimized 9/11, defended terrorists or even suggested America ‘deserved’ the attacks,” said Giovanni Galante, whose 29-year-old wife Grace Catherine Galante was among 2,977 innocents killed by al-Qaeda terrorists.

Galante, 55, is one of the organizers of a petition drive that has collected 3,515 signatures in a little over a week, most from victims’ family members.

‘Sacred’ day

“This day is sacred to us,” said the Brooklyn-born real estate agent who now lives in Florida.

“It is not political, and it is not a platform for those connected to such views. His presence would be deeply hurtful and inappropriate — like an unwelcome guest at a deeply personal ceremony.”

Galante and other petition organizers hope to gather enough signatures to convince local lawmakers and the ceremony’s organizers, the nonprofit 9/11 Memorial & Museum, to keep Mamdani away from the silver-anniversary ceremony planned for the former Twin Towers site in Lower Manhattan.

The petition posted on Change.org cites an array of concerns about Mamdani, who is the city’s first Muslim mayor and has promoted his religion since taking office in January. The concerns include:

■ Mamdani’s refusal to condemn the “globalize the intifada” rallying cry for violence against Jewish people.

■ His appointment of Ramzi Kassem as the city’s chief counsel. Kassem has defended Ahmed al-Darbi — an al-Qaeda terrorist who pleaded guilty in a 2002 plot to bomb a French oil tanker — and Mahmoud Khalil, the radical lead organizer of the 2024 anti-Israel tentifada at Columbia University.

■ The mayor’s endorsement of fellow Democratic Socialist of America member Aber Kawas for a state Senate seat — despite her once describing 9/11 as a terror attack that “a couple of people did.”

■ Mamdani’s dad, Mahmood Mamdani, a chaired professor of African history and colonialism at Columbia University, has expressed sympathy for suicide bombers.

Unity

“Given these concerns, we respectfully ask that the organizers carefully consider whether Mr. Mamdani’s participation would align with the intention of the ceremony and the expectations of the families most directly affected by the tragedy,” the petition says. “The 25th anniversary should remain centered on remembrance, unity, and an unambiguous rejection of the violence and extremism that defined that day.”

Organizer Cheri Sparacio, whose husband Thomas was killed on 9/11, quipped there are “so many other examples” why it would be “disrespectful” for Mamdani to attend the ceremony that “we couldn’t fit them on the list.” They include Mamdani’s longtime association with vile left-wing influencer Hasan Piker, who once said “America deserved” the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, and Mamdani’s outlandish claim that he and other fellow Muslims were also victims of 9/11 because it supposedly triggered a horrible wave of “Islamophobia,” added Sparacio, of Staten Island.

Monica Iken-Murphy, whose husband Michael Iken was killed on 9/11 and was a leading advocate in the creation of 9/11 Memorial & Museum, said she signed the petition but insisted it’s not about Mamdani’s politics.

“I don’t want families to feel uncomfortable,” said Iken-Murphy, also a founding trustee on the 9/11 Memorial & Museum’s board.

Mamdani spokesperson Jeremy Edwards said the mayor still plans to attend the ceremony and “will proudly honor the families, survivors and first responders forever impacted by these devastating attacks by standing alongside them at this year’s 9/11 Commemoration, reaffirming that we will never forget the solemn day felt by all of us who call this city home.”

9/11 kin: Mayor must be banned

ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER
المركز الثقافي الإسلامي

STAY AWAY: Giovanni Galante (far left), whose wife Grace Catherine Galante died during the terror attack, is one of the organizers of a petition drive that has collected over 3,000 signatures in about a week.

Here’s what NYC Mayor Mamdani and some of his allies have said about 9/11 and the United States.

- **Mamdani** in October 2025 teared up while claiming 9/11 triggered a horrible wave of “Islamophobia,” recalling an aunt “who stopped taking the subway after Sept. 11 because she did not feel safe in her hijab.” He later clarified when pressed by reporters that his “aunt” was just a distant cousin.
- Left-wing influencer **Hasan Piker** during a 2019 livestream: “America deserved 9/11, dude. I’m saying it. I’m saying it. We f--king totally brought it on ourselves, dude. Holy s--t. We did. We f--king did.”
- Mamdani-supported State Senate candidate **Aber Kawas** (D-Queens) in 2017: “The idea we have to apologize for like a terror attack that like a couple of people did and then there is no apology or reparations for genocides and for slavery, et cetera — is something I find reprehensible.”
- Mamdani-supported New York congressional candidate **Darializa Avila Chevalier** in 2020: “This country is a f--king disgrace.”
- Brooklyn **Imam Siraj Wahhaj**, an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, during an early 2000s sermon: “I pray one day Allah will bless us to raise an army, and I’m serious about this.”

Zak Bennett for New York Post; Courtesy of Giovanni Galante; AFP via Getty Images; Corbis via Getty Images

La Niña to cool off storms?

Rare temp shift

By SHANE GALVIN

It's boy meets girl.

A rare weather phenomenon developing in the Atlantic Ocean could help put the brakes on this year's hurricane season — even as a powerful El Niño churns in the Pacific, experts say.

Meteorologists are closely watching the emergence of an Atlantic Niña, an uncommon cooling of sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Atlantic that can create conditions hostile to hurricane development.

"For Atlantic Niña, that typically produces less tropical activity for the Atlantic season. It produces a more hostile environment for tropical development," Accuweather meteorologist Alan Reppert told The Post.

The developing Atlantic Niña has sent sea temperatures plunging 2 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit from their average. If the cooling continues, this would be only the sixth summer Atlantic Niña in the last 40 years of data, according to analysis from Severe Weather Europe.

Meanwhile, a Super El Niño has been warming ocean temperatures in the Pacific since June and is projected to be the largest one in at least 150 years, according to Nature.

Peak temps in the Pacific Ocean are currently 3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, according to National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration data.

Studies suggest Atlantic Niñas are associated with about 50% fewer tropical cyclones than normal, including fewer storms that make landfall in the US.

'Quiet' few weeks

But this storm season will still be busy.

"We expect 11 to 16 storms, 4 to 7 hurricanes and 2 to 4 major hurricanes," said Reppert. "Of those, 3 to 5 US impacts are expected. The highest-risk areas for the additional impacts include the eastern Gulf of America coastline and coastal North and South Carolina.

"The El Niño typically has a greater impact on the tropical Atlantic season than Atlantic Nina," he added.

"The next few weeks appear to be pretty quiet with limited chance for development, especially for the beaches along the Northeast US coastline," Reppert said. "But, if a storm develops and moves through a highly populated area or forms and moves just right, it can be a big season with just one storm."

Central US bringing the heat

Dangerously hot weather will expand across much of the central US this weekend and into next week, pushing temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit from Dallas to North Dakota, with roughly 70 million people facing heat advisories.

A heat dome, in which atmospheric conditions trap heat, will create sustained high temperatures.

The Mid-Atlantic and Northeast should avoid the extreme heat, as will much of the Pacific Northwest. *AP*

'Liver let die' fight goes on

Their goose isn't cooked yet!

New York's foie gras farmers are making one last stand against the Big Apple's ban on the French delicacy — taking their fight to court once again.

Lawyers for La Belle Farm and Hudson Valley Foie Gras will be filing a new plea to the state Court of Appeals on Monday in a bid to stop the 2019 City Council ban on foie gras, which is made from deliberately enlarged duck and goose liver, which critics say is a cruel process.

"We're fighting to protect our family, our employees, and our way of life," Sergio Saravia, whose family has operated La Belle Farm in Ferndale for nearly 30 years, told The Post.

Foie gras distributors warned that losing access to the traditional dish holds deeper significance.

"It's a shame for the liberties, gastronomy in general, and quality of life," said Ariane Daguin, daughter of famous French chef Andre Daguin. She co-founded and ran specialty food distributor D'Artagnan for 40 years.

Daguin also shot down claims the forced feeding that is required to create foie gras is a cruel practice.

"We know that the way we raise them does not hurt or does not stress the duck or geese," she said. *Shane Galvin*

selenagomez/Instagram

Selena rocks yacht

It's smooth sailing for Selena Gomez on a summer sailing vacation with hubby Benny Blanco chillin' in the breeze. Insta fans were agog with the superstar's snaps.

AUSTIN FRANCO
Wouldn't work for a Jew.

Cornell is fine with my Jew spew: teen

The disgraced Cornell University student who went viral for declining an interview with an NYC startup because he said he didn't want to be "working for a Jew," claims he's returning the upstate Ivy league campus in the fall.

Austin Franco, 19, the rising junior who delivered the message to VrfID's Jewish cofounders Gabe and Aiden Einhorn via job board site Handshake in June, told conservative nonprofit Accuracy in Media that he hardly got a slap on the wrist from Cornell.

"As of now, they said there's not anything going on on their back end. I think it's because I didn't say anything that could be classified as hateful," Franco unknowingly confided to an "undercover investigator" for the organization, who lured him to a meet-up pretending to be a fellow antisemite.

He said that the school reached out to him after the controversy, but no action has been taken against him.

A spokesperson for Cornell referred The Post to the school's previous statement, but declined to comment on Franco's claim that he is returning to campus.

"This incident has been referred to the Cornell Office of Civil Rights for investigation under university policy," the Cornell spokeswoman said. "Cornell condemns antisemitism and all forms of hatred."

Cornell's lackluster response has sparked outrage among Jewish students and leaders.

Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, told The Post this reflects how alarmingly "normalized" antisemitism has become.

Sonya Gugliara

ATTACK'S SAD IRONY

By TINA MOORE, JENNIFER BAIN, SONYA GUGLIARA and MARIE POHL

The Jewish man stabbed by a maniac repeatedly yelling "Allahu Akbar!" on the Upper West Side recently moved from the city to Florida, reportedly in part because of Mayor Mamdani's anti-Israel stance and lackluster handling of rampant antisemitism in the Big Apple.

Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, 50, who was stabbed in the chest with a screwdriver allegedly by Raul Morales on Thursday when he walked out of a synagogue at Amsterdam Avenue and West 86th Street, recently ditched the Big Apple for Surfside, near Miami.

He was back in Gotham for a few days this week to clean out his apartment, a source said.

At least part of his decision to say goodbye to the city for good was over frustrations with Mamdani, a source told JNS.

Neighbors on Saturday told The Post they understood why Grunhaus, who is religious and a passionate supporter of the Jewish state, would leave the city.

Zo 'aggravating it'

"It makes sense, honestly," a neighbor who wished to remain anonymous told The Post on Saturday. "I mean, given the hatred that is being spoken by our mayor ... towards the Jewish community, he's not welcoming. He's not encouraging people to be proud of their Judaism here, and it's very obvious."

The neighbor continued: "I mean, we all know what he was screaming when he attacked those people. He said, 'Allahu Akbar.' So, like, are you kidding me?"

Added another: "I think the mayor is definitely aggravating the negative side of it. He's saying things that he doesn't have the authority to say. Like he wants to arrest the prime minister of Israel. People who wear kippahs definitely have to be more cautious."

NYPD
STRATEGIC RESPONSE GROUP

NYC'S UNSAFE SPACE: NYPD and security are posted at an entrance to Temple B'Nai Jeshurun (above and right) after two stabbing attacks allegedly by Raul Morales (left) on Thursday.

Robert Miller & Christopher Sadowski for NY Post

Vic moved to escape hate

Grunhaus' recent Facebook posts focus on rampant antisemitism in Gotham, often tagging Mamdani while reposting people's stories of the anti-Jewish-hatred they've experienced.

"I hope your kids die," a June 28 repost from the Israeli Consulate read, telling the story of a Jewish man who was confronted by a stranger in New York. "That's what a stranger said to Rami Feinstein and his family in broad daylight in New York. Not online. Not anonymously. In the middle of a New York street. This is what antisemitism looks like when hatred becomes acceptable, normalized and ignored."

On Friday, Jewish leaders urged Mamdani to stop "fanning the flames" of hate in NYC, and ripped him his formulaic response.

On Saturday the socialist mayor told The Post at an unrelated event in The Bronx: "There's no tolerance for bigotry, and we know that while Jewish New Yorkers constitute a minority in this city, they continue to comprise a majority of the victims of all hate crimes across the five boroughs—and that is unacceptable.

"It is work that we must do to uproot antisemitism out of the five boroughs, and that includes by making it clear that there's no tolerance for it, and that this is a city that will not only look to keep Jewish New Yorkers safe, we also look to celebrate and cherish Jewish New Yorkers."

Nuts for Marx? 'Stabber' had book

The madman who screamed "Allahu Akbar!" while stabbing an Asian and Jewish man in separate harrowing hate attacks on the Upper West Side was a reader of Karl Marx, with police finding one of the communist author's books inside his apartment.

Raul Morales, 51, who's been hit with attempted-murder and hate crime charges and faces up to 40 years in prison, was arrested Thursday in the violent rampage.

Investigators later probed his apartment on Amsterdam Avenue, discovering writings of Marx, widely considered the father of communism, in his bedroom, according to information at Morales' Friday night arraignment that was obtained by The Post.

The document doesn't specify which of Marx's works detectives found, but the 19th century German philosopher wrote several lefty bibles including "The Communist Manifesto," co-written with Friedrich Engels, and "Das Kapital," which tears into capitalism.

The NYPD did not respond to The Post's inquiry into which book they found.

Morales first stabbed an Asian man named Chok Sung, 57, at around 1:30 p.m. Thursday, authorities allege.

He then charged at Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, 50, and stabbed him in the chest with a screwdriver, cops said. Both victims are in stable condition.

Sonya Gugliara

‘Cheaters’ in ‘bench’ trial romance

Jay Guapõ

GET A (COURT)ROOM! Nathaniel Cullerton, 45, and Kelsey Borenzweig, 29,were caught by reported TikTok “antagonist” Jay Guapõ (below).

Legal-eagle lip-lockers

By ELLA MORRISON

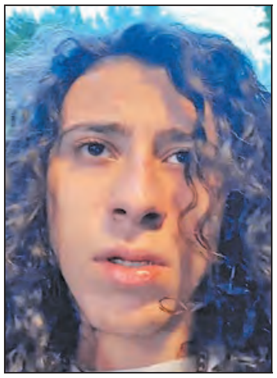
The two rumored Big Apple lawyers caught on camera sucking face in Central Park have been identified as colleagues who work in the same department at a high profile Manhattan law firm.

Nathaniel D. Cullerton, 45, was caught in a heated smoochfest with much younger Kelsey Borenzweig, 29, by TikTok user Jay Guapõ who posted the now-viral video Thursday.

The legal duo, who both work for the prestigious Manhattan firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, were candooling on a Central Park bench as the camera-wielding TikToker interrupts them by hollering, “Get a room. There’s kids around.”

Eagle-eyed viewers were quick to identify the loved-up pair in the comments section, with many comparing it to the Coldplay concert cheating scandal last year.

The Post was able to confirm the identities of the lawyers by comparing the viral TikTok video to their headshots on the law-firm website.



According to the site, the lip-locking legal eagles both work in the firm’s litigation department — but it appears Cullerton is in a much higher position of power than his younger colleague.

Cullerton is listed a partner at the firm, while Borenzweig works as an associate, according to their site profiles.

In the viral video, the two high-profile lawyers — both who worked on the legal team defending OpenAI and Sam Altman against Elon Musk’s $150 billion lawsuit this year — look up in embarrassment and shield themselves from the camera after Guapõ approaches them.

Touchy situation

“If you touch me I’ll have to touch you,” snaps the TikToker, who reportedly has a history of posting antagonizing content.

The lovefest took place in Central Park, just steps from Central Park West and West 63rd Street.

The video of the passionate makeout session has amassed more than 2 million views on TikTok since it was posted Thursday.

However, it appears the love duo are both in relationships with other people who are also in the legal industry, the Daily Mail reported.

The 45-year-old partner is reportedly married to Moira Penza, 42, a partner at another Big Apple firm, according to the publication.

Borenzweig is reportedly in a relationship with Adam Littlestone-Luria, 35, who works as a judicial law clerk with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, the outlet reported.

The Post’s requests for comment from WLR&K, as well as Cullerton and Borenzweig, have not been returned.

MS. RACHEL
Lefty kiddie YouTuber.

Rachel $preads ‘bigotry’

Controversial kids’ YouTuber Ms. Rachel doled out $3,000 to far left Michigan Senate hopeful Abdul El Sayed’s campaign — her latest bid to boost candidacies of anti-Israel radicals.

Ms. Rachel — real name is Rachel Griffin Accurso — quietly reported the handout in Federal Election Commission filings dated July 19. It’s unclear if the payout is a donation or loan.

El-Sayed has called Israel a “rogue state” guilty of “genocide” and campaigned with vile left-wing influencer Hasan Piker, who says Orthodox Jews are “inbred” and that “America deserved 9/11.”

“Abdul El-Sayed and Ms. Rachel are one and the same, forcing their socialist, they/them, anti-America agenda on our children, and parents should be worried when they head to the ballot box,” said Samantha Cantrell, of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. Accurso did not return messages.

David Spector and Rich Calder

‘*Legions* of NY doom’

Tens of thousands of people could have been exposed to Legionnaires’ disease at crowded NYC institutions — but a Post review found that none warned visitors.

The Upper East Side outbreak has killed five New Yorkers and sickened 87, with 77 cooling towers testing positive for Legionella bacteria since July 2.

City Council member Joann Ariola slammed the facilities: “They need their summer dollars, and it doesn’t matter if visitors are put in danger.” *Shane Galvin*

Protest hits 'kill by cop' in Wis.

Hundreds of lefty demonstrators marched through downtown Madison, Wis., spewing anti-cop venom, stopping traffic and harassing diners as they protested the killing of Corey Ruiz, a career criminal who allegedly stabbed a police officer with a knife before being shot.

Nearly 500 people marched from the intersection of Williamson and South Baldwin Streets — where the 38-year-old was shot three times on Wednesday during a struggle with several police officers — to the Madison Police Department headquarters on Friday.

Video showed some demonstrators stopping traffic and confronting a female motorist who insisted she was an "ally" during a streetside struggle.

"You're going to sit there and watch it all go by and you're going to think about it, c–t!" one yelled at the helpless driver.

"I am 100 percent an ally of the community," she pleaded with the protestors who surrounded her car.

"I have lived in this neighborhood for 27 years. F–k the cops. I wanted to join the protest!" she said. "This guy calling me a c–t doesn't help anyone's cause."

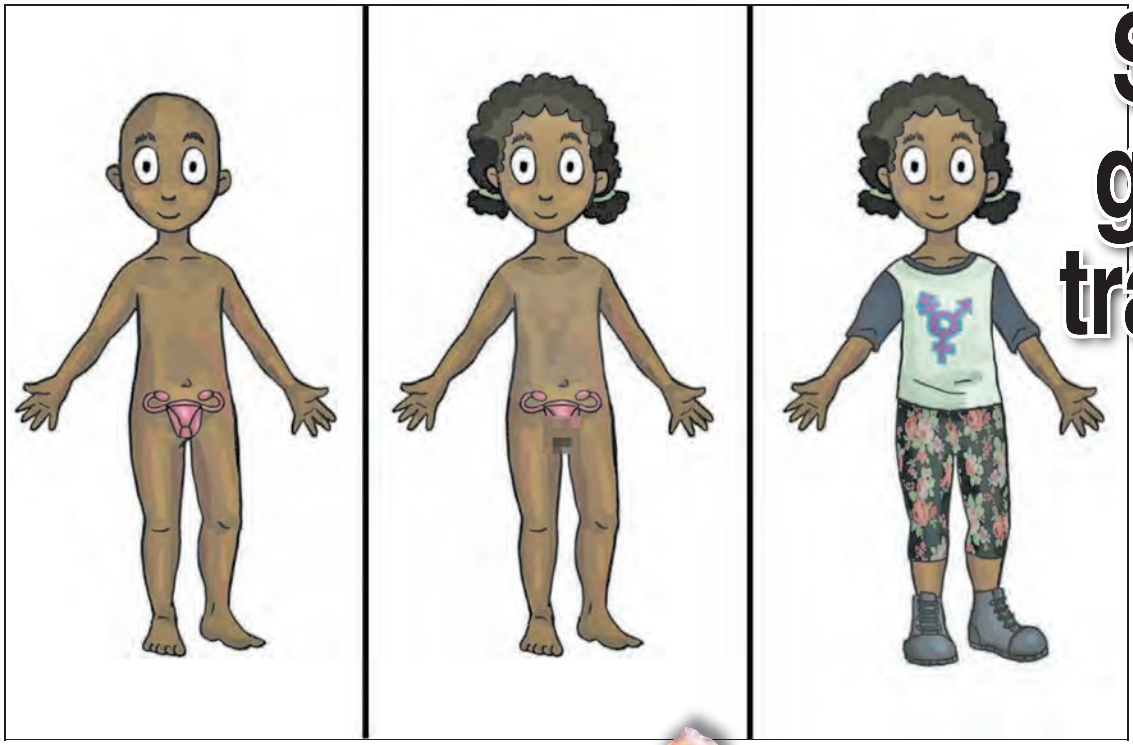
She added: "I'm an ally. I wanted to join the protest. I want to be part of this."

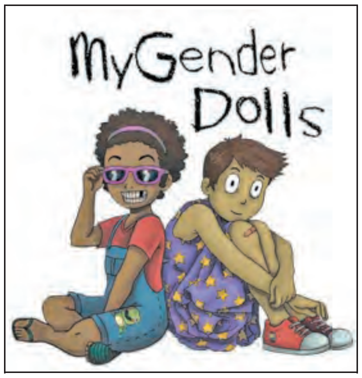
Ruiz was a homeless ex-con allegedly canvassing the area armed with a knife at the time of his confrontation with police. He was being held and struggling with several officers when one fired, according to a viral video.

Steven Vago and Shane Galvin

'JUNK' LESSONS

Schools give kids trans dolls





By GABRIELLE FAHMY

They're dolling up the trans agenda — and taxpayers are footing the bill.

"First-of-their-kind" transgender dolls — complete with removable genitalia — will debut in some Minnesota classrooms this fall to kids as young as 4 years old.

The paper dolls, with gender-neutral names like "Sam," "Rory," "Avery" and "Parker," have removable internal and external genitals, along with more than 100 interchangeable pieces of clothing, accessories and hairstyles — like a trans Mr./Mrs. Potato Head.

The goal is for kids to "learn about the different options that exist for who they can be," according to a therapist at the University of Minnesota Medical School, which spent over half a decade developing the controversial project funded by lefty Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

The Medical School's Institute for Sexual and Gender Health research over those six years included paying $20 to $60 for "trans and gender diverse" children and their parents to play with the dolls and "talk about gender and bodies" in groups.

Prototypes of the dolls were shown in a 2024 conference where one named "Sam" can be seen in what appears to be some phase of a gender transition, with a detachable penis off to the side, and a dress and girls' underwear within reach.

The trans dolls — which promise to "make gender fun" — will be made available to teachers, school counselors, pediatricians and mental health providers, according to a website of the MyGender Dolls company. It features an image of a boy doll wearing a dress and others in various states of sexual identity confusion.

It's not known whether parents — or children — will be able to order a doll. It is not known if parents will be able to opt out of such "therapeutic play" for their kids.

The dolls began as a University of Minnesota research project, which was later spun into a commercial venture — MyGender Dolls — by two licensed psychologists who are professors at the medical school.

Critics say the dolls risk being misused by adults who want to push their ideologies on vulnerable children.

"They will find anybody who's in trouble and use this as a tool to say, 'This is why you're unhappy.' This is absolutely grooming," slammed Dr. Quentin Van Meter, past president of the American College of Pediatricians.

"The younger kids — many of them still believe in the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy. And you're then presenting them with paper dolls that kind of look fun, and you can change clothing, hair, genitals . . . It's well beyond their ability to sort out fantasy from reality."

Walz's office did not return The Post's request for comment.

IDENTITY CRISIS: Minnesota schoolkids will get gender bending dolls to play with in a program backed by Gov. Tim Walz (left), who got an award from the Institute for Sexual and Gender Health.

'Wife-slayer pedophile' in suicide

An influencer was fatally shot by her husband who then killed himself in a two weeks after she accused him of being a pedophile on TikTok, according to a report.

Sara Gilson, 43, posted a TikTok video accusing soon-to-be ex-husband Shawn Duffey, 48.

"Preparing for when Netflix drops a documentary about my soon to be ex-husband who I just found out is a pedophile," Gilson posted on her video.

On July 23, Gilson and Duffey were found dead in her home in Owasso, Okla., after a child in the home called 911, according to KTUL TV.

A protective order had been issued against Duffey on behalf of a 15-year-old girl on his youth basketball team with home Duffey had allegedly acted "inappropriately," officials said.

Daniel Cody

Bloodsucking summer skeeters

Few summer pests are as persistent as the mosquito.

The insects thrive in warm, humid climates where standing water provides ideal breeding habitat.

In the US, mosquitoes are more of a seasonal nuisance than a widespread public health crisis, but some states offer far better breeding conditions than others.

Here are some of the worst mosquito states, according to OutsideOnline.com:

■ **Texas** is home to more than 85 mosquito species, with the densest populations in the humid forests of East Texas.

■ **Florida**'s subtropical climate lets skeeters thrive nearly year-round.

■ **New York** isn't immune. From the bustling streets of New York City to the forests of the Adirondacks, mosquitoes make their presence known.

Kieran Sullivan, Fox

While Don pauses US strikes . . .

Wider war escalates

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
and GABRIELLE FAHMY

WASHINGTON — President Trump halted new US strikes on Iran as he weighs whether Tehran is ready to cut a deal — while a wider regional war appears to be spreading.

After 13 straight days of attacks on Iranian regime targets, Trump instructed the US military to pause any additional strikes Friday, Axios reported Saturday, which cited two people familiar with the decision.

But the president has made clear that the temporary halt does not mean Washington is backing down.

In a brief phone interview with France's LCI news, Trump said he was still prepared to restart a major military campaign if Tehran does not give the US what it wants.

"If we don't get 100% of what we want, absolutely," Trump said when asked whether he could return to full-scale war with Iran.

The White House has not publicly addressed how long the pause might last, and the administration has continued to keep military options on the table. Trump said Thursday that the US was "locked and loaded" for a possible major attack while talks with the Iranians continued.

It comes as the conflict appears to be splintering into new volatile theaters.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed Saturday that Kyiv struck Russian ships carrying military cargo between Iran and Russia in the Caspian Sea, which connects the two allies.

Iranian media swiftly threatened to attack Ukraine in response — raising the prospect of a broader escalation of the war in the Middle East.

"A gentle reminder to Mr. Zelensky: All of Ukraine is within reach of Iran's ballistic missiles," Middle East Spectator wrote on Telegram, along with a map showing the range of Iran's "super-heavy" Khorramshahr-4 missiles.

"Although it would be a waste of good missiles," the account quipped.

Another flashpoint in the widening war also erupted Saturday, with Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi terrorists trading airstrikes as the latter enforces a blockade on Saudi ports.

The volleys came days after the Iran-backed Houthis attacked several Saudi commercial vessels in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait — a narrow waterway connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden that carries roughly 5% of global maritime trade.

The Houthis claimed Saturday that they launched dozens of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones at Saudi state-owned energy giant Aramco's facilities in the Red Sea cities of Yanbu and Jizan.

"The operations successfully achieved their objectives, thanks be to God," Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a prerecorded statement.

"We confirm the blockade on the Saudi enemy is still ongoing in response to their aggression," he added.

'SUCKING'

US Special Ops waiting to raid nuclear sites

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
and SHANE GALVIN

American Special Operations forces are waiting in the wings to launch the "most sophisticated operation in military history" to seize Iran's enriched uranium from heavily fortified nuclear sites.

"I hate to say it, but I think the most likely way to get rid of Iran's nuclear material, at least what they currently have, is a military operation, because the negotiations aren't going anywhere fast," said Joseph Rodgers, deputy director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The deeply complex operation would involve thousands of ground troops storming Iran's nuclear facilities — navigating booby traps, utilizing construction crews and maintaining a large defensive blocking force surrounding the sites — a source familiar with military planning told The Post on Friday.

Historic operation

From there, a small team of special operators would conduct the actual retrieval — a "highly dangerous" process, the person said.

"I think this would be one of the most, if not the most, sophisticated operations in military history," said Rodgers.

"This would be a logistically heavy and difficult operation in a contested environment. Iran's military is pretty destroyed, but they're still more sophisticated than the Cubans that were guarding Maduro."

The group of special operators could include SEAL Team 6's Silver Squadron, the 2nd Ranger Battalion, and the Army's 21st Ordnance Company, according to a report from plugged-in independent outlet The High Side.

The 21st Ordnance Company would be responsible for handling and transporting whatever quantity of enriched uranium out of facilities from the mostly destroyed Fordo facility and the severely damaged Isfahan facility, according to the report.

The IAEA reported in 2025 that Iran had upwards of 20,000 pounds of enriched uranium.

"You need to create a secure perimeter around all of the sites that you're trying to go in and grab the material from. That would require ground forces to secure a perimeter and then create a secure convoy route to the airstrip," said Rodgers.

US military crews would have to dig out the destroyed entrances of the sites while holding off attacks from the Iranian military.

"So how long can you sustain that and still be able to exfiltrate all of your forces?" said Richard Goldberg, who served as director for countering Iranian weapons of mass destruction for the White House National Security Council in the first Trump administration.

Iran preparing

The mission would further require complete control of a corridor of airspace that would allow the military to fly to a secure location.

Iran has been preparing for an attack on the Isfahan facility.

"We have seen reports of Iran hardening the facility at Isfahan, booby traps being laid and potentially perimeter forces being stationed," said Goldberg.

"There is no element of surprise at the moment. The targets are fixed. We know where they are. The Iranians know where they are."

Iran has placed mines and explosives in the tunnels of the Isfahan facility in anticipation of a raid on the facility, according to a CNN report last month.

Pickaxe Mountain has emerged as a new target after it was re-

UP THE DUST

BEST-RAID PLANS: The US could turn to military units like the 21st Ordnance Company (top right) to raid Iran nuclear facilities like Pickaxe Mountain (below right) in the "most sophisticated operation in military history."

USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20); 20th CBRNE Command; DigitalGlobe/Getty Images

ported that Iran transported hundreds of nuclear centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear enrichment location in the last month.

'Collapse the facility'

"We don't know how many centrifuges are down there. Would they be looking to actually disassemble, destroy, bring them out? I mean, more likely, if you had to do a special operations mission inside Pickaxe Mountain, the reason you would do that is you don't think you can collapse the facility by airstrike," Goldberg said.

The determination on whether airstrikes would be sufficient relies on US intelligence community knowledge on the schematics and weak points of the building — much like the bunker busters that targeted the Achilles' heel airshaft of the heavily fortified Fordo, according to Goldberg.

"That's a destroy mission," said Goldberg. "If you were to try to get into the facility, you'd be seeking to collapse the facility."

Unlike the Isfahan and Fordo, the US could potentially see quick success in Pickaxe.

"Pickaxe Mountain, potentially, could be like the Maduro raid," he said of the operation that arrested the Venezuelan ex-dictator Nicolas Maduro in the presidential compound of capital city Caracas.

"Because you are infiltrating, you're setting explosives, and you're getting out," said Goldberg.

US tanker spanker

US military forces disabled a tanker trying to get through the Strait of Hormuz Friday, stopping what officials said was a deliberate attempt to run a regional blockade after the crew repeatedly ignored warnings.

The strike marks one of 12 forced turnarounds of ships that attempted to breach the blockade and were subsequently redirected away from the strait, the military said.

The military fired into the engine room of the M/T Lavine, stopping the ship in its tracks, Captain Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for CENTCOM, told The New York Times. "The ship is no longer transiting to Iran," Hawkins said.

"As of July 25, CENTCOM has redirected 12 commercial vessels trying to run the blockade, disabled 2 that didn't comply, and boarded 2 to ensure total compliance," the combat command said in a statement on X. *Daniel Cody*

Big split among regime's leaders

WASHINGTON — Iran's leaders are fighting each other almost as much as they're battling the West, with some senior politicians scrambling to save US talks while the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leans into the renewed war, regional sources told The Post.

With Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei out of public view, there's no one left to force the rival factions back into line — meaning the future of the conflict may now be decided by a power struggle in Tehran, not by Washington.

The growing divide has exposed what the sources describe as two competing centers of power inside Tehran: civilian leaders trying to preserve a fragile diplomatic track and military hardliners determined to keep up pressure through confrontation.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (upper inset) and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (lower) want to keep dialogue with the US alive and prevent the fighting from spiraling into another full-scale regional war, the sources said.

But their authority has steadily eroded, one regional source familiar with Iran's internal dynamics told The Post.

Instead of winning internal political battles, the IRGC has increasingly created "facts on the ground" through military action, the source said, while hardline lawmakers move afterward to enshrine those actions into law.

The widening split has become increasingly visible in recent weeks, the source said.

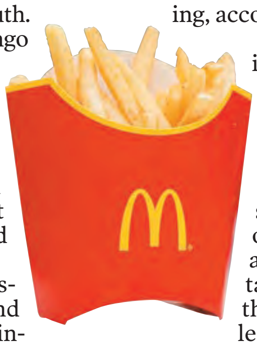
Caitlin Doornbas

McD's grease & desist

Fry burn lawsuit

By SONYA GUGLIARA

A woman says the french fries at a Midtown East McDonald's were so blisteringly hot, they burned the inside of her mouth.



Catherine Luongo is still salty after allegedly being scorched by "extremely hot and overheated" fries at the 42nd Street outpost March 5, she said in a lawsuit.

"[Luongo] sustained serious and severe personal injuries to head, body and limbs; a severe shock to the nervous system [and] suffered great physical pain and mental anguish," the filing reads.

Her potentially "permanent and lasting" injuries were so severe they left her bedridden, she claimed in the filing.

She blames the "careless" chain for serving her the sizzling spuds and for failing to warn her that eating them came with a risk, according to court papers filed Tuesday in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Previous suits

Luongo is no stranger to lawsuits. She sued Walmart in 2025 and Panera in 2018, court dockets show.

She claimed a worker at a Glendale Panera accidentally hit her hand with a chair, causing "severe" and "permanent" injuries, according to documents filed in Queens Supreme Court. She ultimately won $150,000.

The case against Walmart, which was originally filed in Queens Supreme Court, but moved to federal court after Luongo demanded $1 million in damages, is ongoing, according to records.

Luongo alleged in that case that an employee was returning multiple shopping carts to the Valley Stream store, when one of the carts with a metal pole attached hit her in the parking lot, leaving her bruised and wounded.

Walmart and Luongo are handling the matter privately, but as of July 9 have not reached a settlement.

Luongo is demanding unspecified damages in the suit against McDonald's.

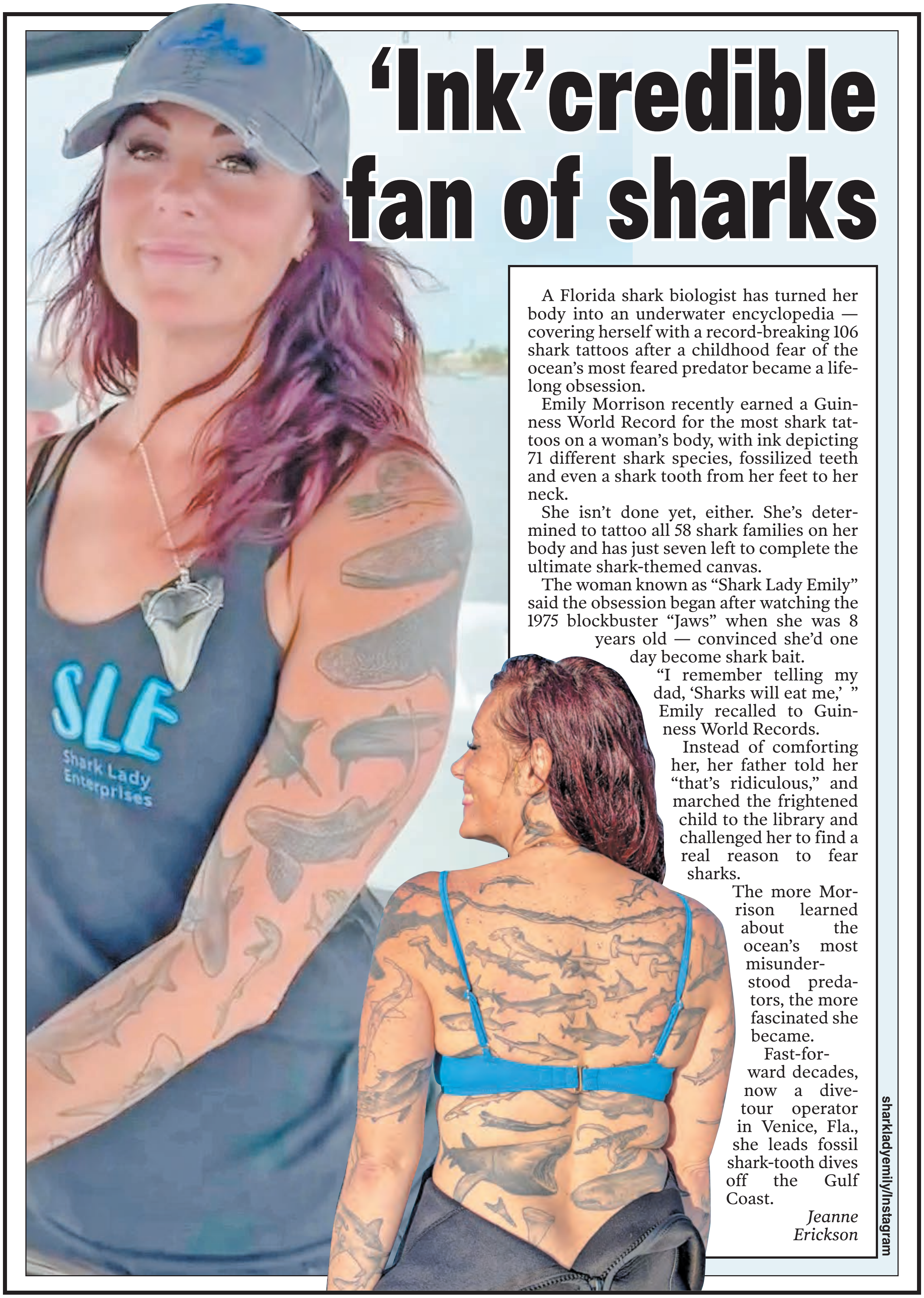
The alleged incident comes more than 30 years after an elderly New Mexico woman famously sued the burger giant after a piping-hot coffee spilled on her lap and gave her third-degree burns.

The case, Liebeck v. McDonald's Restaurants, initially won her a whopping $2.7 million. The award was later reduced in a confidential settlement.

Leading up to her case, McDonald's had received more than 700 similar complaints from customers who said they had been burned, according to the Consumer Attorneys of California.

In the aftermath of the case, McDonald's was forced to lower the serving temp of its coffee and slap warning labels on the cups.

'Ink'credible fan of sharks



sharkladyemily/Instagram

A Florida shark biologist has turned her body into an underwater encyclopedia — covering herself with a record-breaking 106 shark tattoos after a childhood fear of the ocean's most feared predator became a lifelong obsession.

Emily Morrison recently earned a Guinness World Record for the most shark tattoos on a woman's body, with ink depicting 71 different shark species, fossilized teeth and even a shark tooth from her feet to her neck.

She isn't done yet, either. She's determined to tattoo all 58 shark families on her body and has just seven left to complete the ultimate shark-themed canvas.

The woman known as "Shark Lady Emily" said the obsession began after watching the 1975 blockbuster "Jaws" when she was 8 years old — convinced she'd one day become shark bait.

"I remember telling my dad, 'Sharks will eat me,' " Emily recalled to Guinness World Records.

Instead of comforting her, her father told her "that's ridiculous," and marched the frightened child to the library and challenged her to find a real reason to fear sharks.

The more Morrison learned about the ocean's most misunderstood predators, the more fascinated she became.

Fast-forward decades, now a dive-tour operator in Venice, Fla., she leads fossil shark-tooth dives off the Gulf Coast.

Jeanne Erickson

Hawaii friend-lei to Golden Arches

The Aloha State is the Mac-daddy when it comes to the Golden Arches.

New Jersey boasted the second-highest-rated McDonald's branches in the nation behind Hawaii, according to a survey by Restaurant Furniture.

To gauge which regions "serve up the best Golden Arches experience, the restaurant furnishing purveyor examined more than 8.7 million customer reviews on Google, encompassing 4,867 McDonald's branches across the US.

It specifically looked at the top 10 cities in each state, collecting the number of McDonald's locations and their average ratings.

Finally, the weighted average of the city-based reviews was used to rank the regions based on the lovability of their McDonald's.

Hawaii dominated the rankings in this fast-food nation, based on 68,580 Google reviews across 48 locations.

Many customers have raved about the localized items on offer at the 50th state's Golden Arches, such as the rice and eggs with Portuguese sausage and/or spam. California secured third place. *Ben Cost*

Bakery claims 'flake' news

They claim the accusations are half-baked.

Bougie NYC bakery Le Parisien denied allegations by a popular foodfluencer that they were selling Costco croissants to unsuspecting customers for a staggering markup.

Earlier this week, content creator Sreenitya, digitally known as @TallBrownGirlll, posted a viral TikTok that appeared to show a deliveryman unloading boxes of the prepackaged treats at the restaurant's counter.

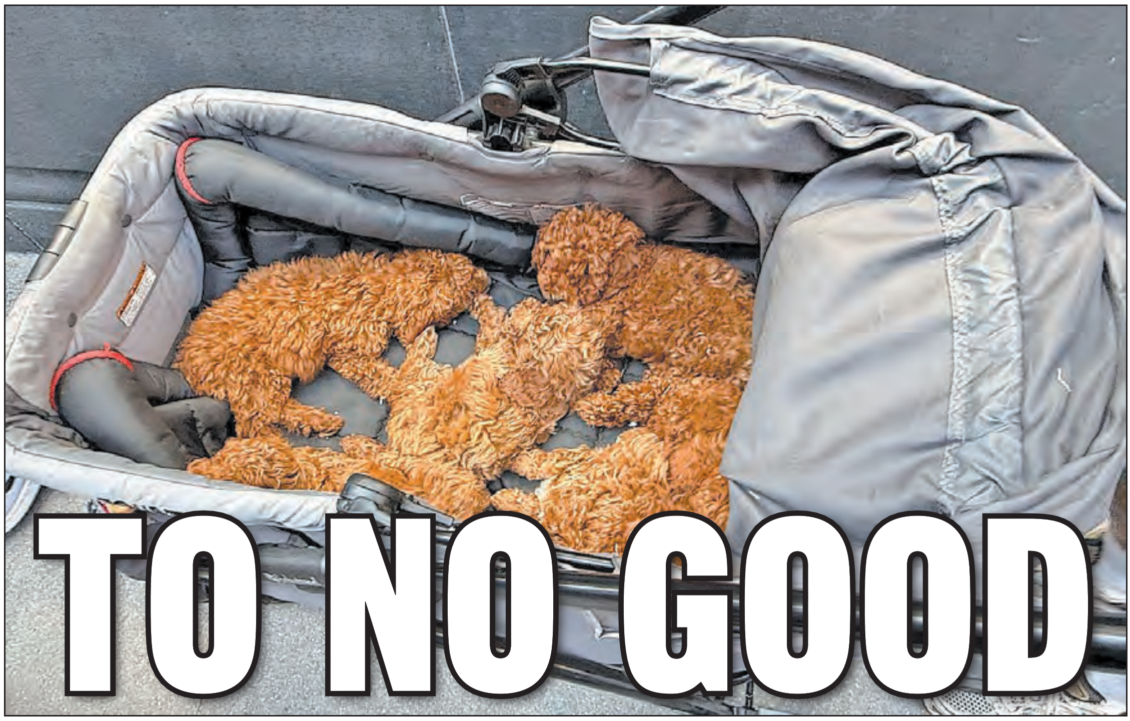
"The croissants are from Costco," lamented the disillusioned diner, who claimed she had to pay $12 for a "pistachio croissant." For reference, a box of Costco's signature butter croissants cost just under $6.80 for a box of 12, or just over $0.50 each.

Sreenitya dubbed the so-called swindle "literal robbery" and warned her 70,000 followers to "not come here," sparking backlash as users accused the patisserie of pawning off dollar-bin pastries as gourmet confections.

However, a Le Parisien employee insisted to the Daily Mail that their product is baked fresh and they simply use Costco packaging.

"We have a company [production site] in Coney Island, they bring [the croissants] to us every morning," they claimed. "They just reuse the boxes. They're not Costco croissants."

A Costco employee told the Sun the bakery may receive other foodstuffs in Costco packages, which they save for later. *Ben Cost*

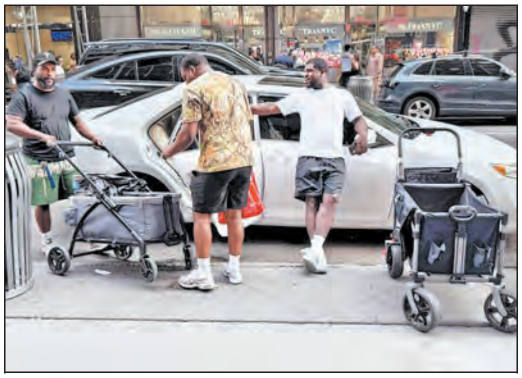


Helayne Seidman for the NY Post

PUP TO NO GOOD

Men selling dogs out of car trunk

By TRISTA PANAGAKOS and GABRIELLE FAHMY



RE'TAIL': This week, a group of men were spotted selling designer dogs for $1,500 each out of a white Mercedes in the middle of the Diamond District. Passersby were encouraged to pick up or pet the adorable pups.

NYC's black-market mobile puppy mill is still on the move — and it's bigger and bolder than ever.

This week, four men were seen hawking shaggy brown designer pups for $1,500 each out of a white Mercedes in broad daylight in the middle of the bustling Diamond District.

The sighting on W. 47th Street was the fourth time in less than a year the same shady puppy peddlers — in the same luxury van with covered license plates parked in a no-standing zone — shamelessly sold 2-month-old puppies without being confronted by cops or even traffic agents.

An NYPD traffic cop casually strolled past the puppy-selling van Thursday, seemingly oblivious to the illegal activity.

The NYPD confirmed 911 was called on the dog-sellers Thursday around 4 p.m., but by the time officers arrived the men had fled.

This week's operation was more brazen than the one The Post witnessed in the fall. A second vehicle was involved, and two more sellers were in on the scheme, bringing the total to four. The number of animals increased from the eight seen in November to 12.

This time the sleeping puppies were placed in two crowded baby carriages, as passersby were encouraged to pet or pick them up.

The midday temperature was 84 degrees.

In December 2024, Albany enacted the landmark Puppy Mill Pipeline Act, mandating New Yorkers only adopt from shelters or buy directly from responsible breeders, typically outside the city.

The crime is punishable by fines of up to $1,000 handed out by the state attorney general's office.

Also forbidden in the city is backyard breeding, which the sellers claimed they do, boasting about the pups hailing from two litters, when a Post reporter posing as a potential customer started asking questions.

"We breed them," one of the sellers proudly admitted. "We just love our dogs."

As passersby swarmed the baby carriages, the sellers told them the dogs were miniature poodles with an asking price of $1,500. One seller offered his phone number and Instagram account to an interested customer.

One of the men, who identified himself as Tyshawn Walker, made a sales pitch to the Post reporter. But when confronted with the illegality of his operation, he bizarrely backtracked, claiming he was there simply to do free puppy yoga.

"We don't sell them, we do puppy yoga. . . . We don't charge for puppy yoga," he said, vaping as he held one of the dogs.

The ASPCA said it was aware of the situation but had not received a request from NYPD to assist in corralling the dog traffickers.

"The NYPD is the primary agency that enforces animal cruelty laws across the five boroughs," a spokesperson told The Post. "The ASPCA is on standby to support the NYPD with this situation should they request our services."

"Selling puppies out of a car trunk is an immediate red flag," slammed Brian Shapiro, state director for Humane World for Animals. "These sales violate city and state laws that protect both pets and consumers."

Leonardo Munoz

IN PHARM'S WAY: On Friday in Washington Heights, vendors were spotted selling various medicines to customers.

Pill pushers back plying trade

An illicit open-air prescription drug market in Washington Heights sprang back to life this weekend, days after the NYPD shut it down following a Post exposé.

About 10 vendors were spotted Friday setting up tables along St. Nicholas Avenue, near West 180th and 181st Streets, brazenly selling prescription painkillers, erectile dysfunction pills, antibiotics and other meds, along with vitamins and over-the-counter products.

The sellers returned three days after at least six police cars swarmed the sprawling street pharmacy, sending pill peddlers running with their stashes. Six of the sellers were back again Saturday.

"I don't think it's right, but what can we do?" said a local pharmacist legitimately operating on the same strip. "Everything is not right in this country in the first place."

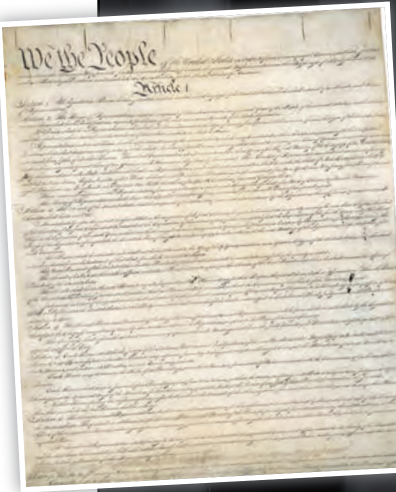
The exposé detailed how nearly two dozen vendors sold an assortment of medications across 10 square blocks between West 179th to West 183rd streets and St. Nicholas Avenue.

Khristina Narizhnaya

WE THE 'CREEP'LE

DSA: Time to abolish Const.

By GABRIELLE FAHMY, SOFIA POZNANSKY and GEOFF EARLE


We the People

The NYC chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America bashed the US Constitution as "a rationalization of a pirate kingdom" at a twisted workshop last week where it brainstormed ways to abolish the foundational backbone of the country.

The "How to Write a Constitution" workshop — led by a Los Angeles-born radical author who spent his early childhood in Kenya and whose middle name is Fidel — is part of a nationwide leftist effort to abolish the US Senate, Supreme Court, Electoral College and presidency.

'Agitating blueprint'

"The US constitution is pushing toward a system that looks more and more authoritarian and is not compatible with some vision of Democratic change," Boston College law professor Aziz Rana told the assembled crowd of about 25 people at the DSA's Lower East Side headquarters, whose red walls are plastered with pictures of the more famous Fidel.

"There's a deep undemocratic element to it," he said, claiming that it "empowers the state to engage in various forms of violence."

"It might establish rights, but the rights are oftentimes going to be the rights of property holders," he said.

Rana is regularly invited to speak or be interviewed at the organization's array of events around the country. His 2024 book, "The Constitutional Bind: How Americans Came to Idolize a Document that Fails Them," has been called by the DSA "a blueprint for the left to return to agitating."

Like "nepo baby" Mayor Mamdani, who hails from a wealthy family, true to champagne socialist fashion, Rana lives with his wife, Odette Lienau, the dean of BC's law school, in a $3.4 million Brookline, Mass. mansion.

The couple also owns a second home in Ithaca, NY, worth more than $700,000, according to public records.

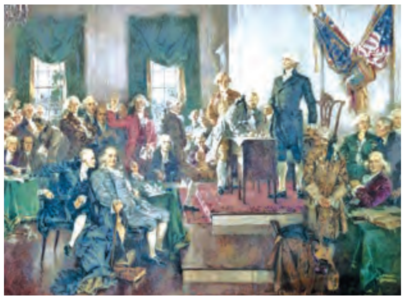
Test for candidates

Comrades, fed a catered lunch that included beef, lamb and chicken kebabs, labneh and za'atar bread, ate up the anti-constitution agitprop.

"Our constitution was a rationalization of a pirate kingdom," said one attendee. "That was essentially what we were.

"We need to take care of each other in a different way than we had been thinking about under the WASP mentality that the God had given us the land to exploit, and that people could be exploited, because it was the manifest destiny of the Europeans to control the world — whatever rationalizing bulls--t they were selling back then."

Earlier this month, the DSA issued a new requirement for candidates it endorses to support their full radical agenda moving forward — which could be a real test if "Squad" Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) ends up on the presidential ticket in 2028.



PIRATE KINGDOM?: The DSA held a meeting hosted by BC law professor Aziz Rana (above) where one attendee made the wild claim that "our constitution was a rationalization of a pirate kingdom."

New York City Democratic Socialists of America /YouTube; Getty Images; Corbis via Getty Images

TROY JACKSON
Backed by Dems.

Logger tapped for Plat's Sen. nom

Maine Democrats officially tapped former logger and one-time state Senate President Troy Jackson on Saturday to replace accused rapist Graham Platner as the party nominee in the high-stakes race against incumbent Republican Sen. Susan Collins.

The special nominating convention in Bangor served as a coronation for Jackson, who essentially locked up the nomination earlier this week after the vast majority of Maine's 601 delegates pledged to support the 58-year-old — resulting in all but one of his opponents dropping out of the race.

Jackson's nomination caps a mad scramble that started on July 8, when Platner announced that he would bow out of the Senate race after a woman he previously dated, Jenny Racicot, publicly alleged that he drunkenly raped her at her Maine home in 2021.

Platner, who continues to vehemently deny the accusation, officially withdrew from the race on July 10.

The Maine race is key to which party will control the Senate. *Victor Nava*

Don 'signs' Smithsonian accuracy

President Trump on Friday ordered his administration to install signs outside the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History directing visitors to what the White House describes as "accurate" information about the nation's past.

The executive order instructs the National Park Service, which maintains the sidewalks outside the museum, to place signs informing visitors about a White House report released July 4 that criticized the Smithsonian's portrayal of American history.

Trump also directed the creation of a temporary exhibit intended to correct what his administration considers inaccurate historical information.

The move follows a report from Trump's Domestic Policy Council that accused the Smithsonian and the National Museum of American History of failing to present history "in a way that is inspiring, unifying, and worthy of our great republic."

Because the Smithsonian operates independently of the executive branch, Trump can't directly remove its leadership or unilaterally change exhibits. *Fox News*

Firms: Bam stiffed us

Three subcontractors filed legal claims against former President Barack Obama's presidential center, alleging they were stiffed out of nearly $1 million.

The firms say they're owed money for work they did on Home Court — the Chicago complex's luxurious 60,000-square-foot basketball court and events facility, Fox News Digital reported.

The three construction outfits — Area Erectors, which does structural steel work; CSI 3,000, which handles excavation and concrete; and flooring company Floors Incorporated — are claiming they're owed $625,000, $236,000 and $25,000. *David Spector*

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Don im‘press’es at dinner do-over

Reuters

A CORDIAL AFFAIR: At the White House Correspondents’ make-up dinner Friday, President Trump got attendees to salute law enforcement and laugh at jokes, and he congratulated award-winning reporters.

THE president came, he saw, he joked, he insulted and talked too long. And yet, Donald Trump’s presence was the major reason why the White House Correspondents’ dinner was such a smashing success.

A make-up event for the dinner in April that was dramatically cut short by a would-be assassin’s attempt to kill Trump and members of his Cabinet, Friday’s version turned out to be far better and much more meaningful than the original would have been.

The reason is that the near-tragedy in April inspired the second try as a unifying event and a living testament to American exceptionalism.

Indeed, when this president and the nation’s major media group actually agree on something, as they did Friday, it’s breaking news and time to STOP THE PRESSES!

Most of the credit goes to Trump, who heartily saluted the undaunted courage of the Secret Service agents and D.C. police who stopped the shooter on that near-tragic night. He also managed to pull off the impossible by getting the 700 journalists and others in the hotel ballroom to stand and applaud security officers and our military.

Given that most journalists are lefty Democrats and members of the hate-Trump rabble of DEI and defund the police, getting them to participate in the salute was no small accomplishment.

The president was also gracious in staying to the very end and personally congratulating journalists who won awards for stories that, in most cases, were highly critical of him and his policies.

He was such a good sport that after shaking hands with Wall Street Journal reporters he had sued over their article about his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, the president showed a half-smile, threw up his arms in apparent exasperation and shook his head, as if to say, what the hell am I doing here?

Prez in good spirits

Given that he had boycotted the annual event in his first term as well as last year, some second-guessing was inevitable.

But he nonetheless seemed to enjoy himself for the most part, and offered more than a few zingers when it was his turn to talk.

“This place is really the largest group of ‘Trump derangement syndrome’ people ever put together at one time,” he declared. That one drew some knowing laughs, but others, such as personal insults of specific journalists, were met with stony silence.

So too were his well-worn swipes at Dem senators Adam Schiff and Elizabeth Warren, proving they are better suited for his campaign rallies.

At one point, when a line in his staff-prepared speech got the silent treatment, Trump interjected, “That was the only thing I thought was good in this whole fricking stupid speech they wrote. That was the only good one and that went down with not exactly great laughter.”

Credit for the success of the evening also goes to Weijia Jiang, a Washington reporter for CBS and president of the correspondents’ association.

In the spirit of America’s 250th birthday, she aimed to turn the event into a celebration of the First Amendment and the journalists who defend it.

She added a personal dimension with a moving story about her family’s arrival from China, where she was born and how they were graciously welcomed into West Virginia coal country, where some customers at their restaurant paid with deer meat.

She said her life and career, where she gets to ask the president questions in the Oval Office, are possible “only in America” and demonstrate how extraordinary our nation is.

Unfortunately, that fundamental truth is so much eyewash to a group of disgruntled journalists who did their best to sabotage the event. Some 500 of them signed a nasty statement calling it “hypocritical to celebrate the First Amendment in front of the man who relentlessly attacks it.”

‘Normalize relations’

The statement went on to urge the association to use the program, televised by C-SPAN, to “condemn the administration’s actions from the podium and pledge to fight all attempts to undermine this core pillar of a functioning democracy.”

Jiang rejected the pressure in no uncertain terms, saying the dinner was part of an effort to “normalize relations” between the Trump administration and journalists and find compromises by “working together.”

“We are not political, and obviously we stand against any actions that are meant to intimidate and threaten and chill free speech, and we have made that very clear,” she added. “But again, I don’t think issuing strongly worded statements is effective.”

Had she been so inclined, she might have extended her criticism to note that some of the prominent outside critics were instrumental in creating a media industry that has lost the trust of most Americans.

Among them was Dan Rather, who was booted from CBS for using forged documents in a September surprise effort to help try to defeat President George W. Bush in the 2004 campaign.

Another signee was Jim Acosta, a former CNN anchor who beclowned himself with near-daily disputes with Trump and White House aides in the president’s first term. Acosta’s antics made him such a liability to CNN that he quit rather than accept a network demotion to the graveyard shift.

The damage caused by Rather, Acosta and many other Dem activists with press passes is inescapable.

One result is a Gallup survey finding that confidence in the media has reached a new low. Just 28% of respondents say they have a “great deal” or “fair amount” of trust “in newspapers, television and radio to report the news fully, accurately and fairly.”

The numbers, although they are part of a longer trend, mark a rapid decline from just five years ago, when 40 percent of adults expressed confidence and trust.

There are numerous reasons for the pattern, including social media, but partisan bias is obviously a huge factor. Just as most major news organizations jumped on the Dems’ bandwagon that Trump was a Russian asset in 2016, they also saw nothing wrong with Joe Biden’s obvious cognitive decline until he mumbled and stumbled through his June 2024 debate with Trump.

One effect of the pattern is that Republicans’ confidence in the mass media, which Gallup says hasn’t risen above 21% in a decade, has now plunged to single digits, at just 8%.

Independents’ trust is down to 27%, a historic low, yet 51% of Democrats trust the media.

The enormous gap should settle the debate about whether most media outlets are biased in favor of Dems. They clearly are, so the only remaining question is whether the partisans are going to get back to delivering the news instead of propaganda.

Tragic Nolan twist

YouTube / The Officer Tatum

NO WAY: Warren Hudson says on YouTube Friday that he did not know Nolan Wells' phone password.

Pal: Didn't hack phone

By MOLLIE MANSFIELD
and ALEX DIAZ

Nolan Wells' self-described best friend has addressed concerns the teen's mother has about potentially deleted content on her son's phone after he went missing.

Wells, 18, disappeared after a Fourth of July boating trip to Horn Island, Miss., and was found dead in the water two days later.

Mom Christine Wonsley, said that when his phone was returned to the family, they had concerns after finding no pictures or videos on his two Snapchat accounts, calling it "suspicious" and triggering fears that content may have been deleted.

But Wells' pal Warren Hudson, who was on the fateful trip, insists he has no knowledge that anyone deleted anything from the promising athlete's phone.

"There was no reason for us to get on Nolan's phone, no one touched Nolan's phone . . . If none of us had touched Nolan's phone then you know there's no reason for anything to be deleted," Hudson told YouTuber The Officer Tatum, a black Christian and conservative, on Friday.

"No one even was in contact with his phone until it was moved from the boat to the truck, and none of us have access to Nolan's password to get on his phone and delete anything," Hudson explained.

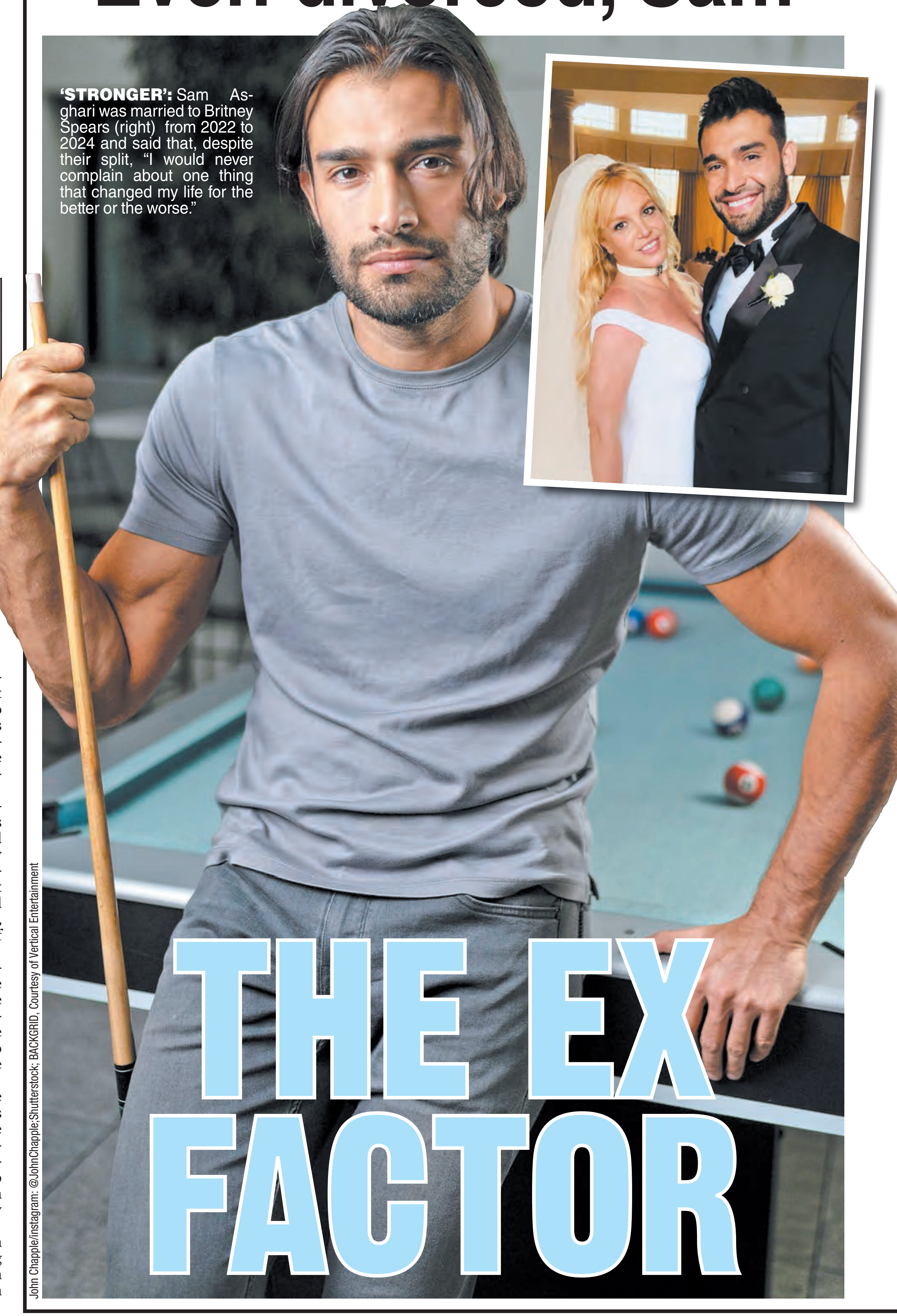
"We had no reason to delete anything . . . There's nothing to hide here," said Hudson, who previously told The Post that he considered Wells his "best friend." Asked if he deleted anything from Wells' phone, Hudson responded, "No, of course not."

Hudson previously explained why Wells' phone was left on the boat while they were at the barrier island, saying, "When you're waist-deep in water, no one's carrying their phone in their hand."

He also claimed that one of his "panicking" pals yelled for Wells to "Get the F on the boat!" after the vessel started experiencing issues. "And Nolan said 'no I'm staying out here . . . I'm gonna ride in somebody else.' "

Civil-rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Wells' family, did not return a call seeking comment on Hudson's claims.

Even divorced, Sam



'STRONGER': Sam Asghari was married to Britney Spears (right) from 2022 to 2024 and said that, despite their split, "I would never complain about one thing that changed my life for the better or the worse."

THE EX FACTOR

John Chapple/instagram: @JohnChapple;Shutterstock; BACKGRID, Courtesy of Vertical Entertainment

Asghari will always be 'Mr. Britney'

SARA NATHAN

FOR Sam Asghari, life is golden.

He plays the "baddest guy" in a new movie with John Travolta, "The Gentleman Thief," and he's head-over-heels in love with girlfriend Brooke Irvine.

But he also knows that, to many people, he will forever be known as "Mr. Britney Spears."

Asked if he thinks there will ever come a time when people don't ask him about the troubled superstar — whom he dated for six years and was married to for two, until 2024 — he told Page Six: "Never going to happen.

"But am I fully ready to answer those questions and am I fully ready for it not to affect me? Absolutely," he said.

In contrast to Asghari's settled new life, this year alone, Spears, 44, has been arrested for a DUI and gone to rehab.

Just days ago, the singer sparked safety concerns after standing and dancing through the sunroof of a Mercedes G-Wagon cruising down Los Angeles' 101 Freeway. She later dismissed the backlash on Instagram, writing, "Nothing is what it seems."

So what does Asghari make of this latest behavior from his ex-wife, who has so publicly struggled in the past?

The Iranian-born actor, 32, pauses before answering.

"I've been really focused on what has been happening in my country," he said. "All my focus has gone towards that and the projects I've been doing. I don't like to really look at entertainment news and I don't like to believe what I see anyway.

Asghari first met Spears in October 2016 on the set of her "Slumber Party" music video. He played her love interest and they hit it off.

He was by Spears' side as she battled to be released from her strict 13-year conservatorship, and they wed in June 2022 at a rather bizarre star-studded wedding with guests including Madonna and Drew Barrymore. During those years, multiple sources told Page Six that Asghari was a solid force of support for her.

'Winning the lottery'

Even now, Asghari — who, Page Six previously reported, left the marriage without any spousal support — makes it clear that he wants the best for Spears.

"The past is the past and we get to celebrate it and we get to always reflect on it," he said. "You can't change the past. The things that happened happened. And like I said, I would never complain about one thing that changed my life for the better or for the worse."

In the years since their divorce, finalized in December 2024, Asghari has moved on.

He has been with Irvine, 32, for nearly two years and the pair live together in Los Angeles, along with their dog Porcha.

"She's amazing," he said of the real-estate agent. "She's super supportive and we've been trying to enjoy the summer and try to go on vacation and we're trying to figure out with the schedule where to go."

Might the two expand their family soon?

"I'm focused on my career now, but what I've learned is if I'm going to create a future in Hollywood, I'm going to have to put myself at risk and not my family and the people that are next to me," Asghari said. "But, yeah, at some point, who doesn't want to have a family? I mean, everybody wants to have a family."

A former fitness trainer, Asghari has been working to build up a Hollywood career.

Last year, he appeared on the NBC hit "The Traitors." And now he has a role in "The Gentleman Thief," out July 31, playing Victor, part of a team recruited by veteran con man Mason Goddard (Travolta) to steal a $100 million painting from a yacht.

"I'm the macho, the muscle of the operation," Asghari said with a laugh. "Everybody has a specialty in the team and I'm the guy that holds the big guns and goes on the big mission.

"I'm really the baddest guy in this movie."

Asghari was brought on to the project through his old friend Randall Emmett, who produced the movie, which also stars Rebecca De Mornay, Lukas Haas and DJ Khaled.

It's a remarkable full-circle moment for Asghari, who, as a kid growing up in Tehran, watched Travolta's films to learn English. (His favorite: "The Taking of Pelham 123," which came out in 2009, a couple of years after he moved to the US as a 12-year-old.)

"I never imagined that one day I'd be sharing the screen with him," he said of Travolta. "Coming from Iran as a 12-year-old boy, it's already winning the lottery — because the chances of coming to America from a country like that, it's almost none."

Now, he marveled, he's "working with legends like Mel Gibson and John Travolta and John Cena and Jean Smart and Don Cheadle, Morgan Freeman and all these people that I would never had thought.

"I came from a country that has gone through so much politically . . . and there's a lot of innocent people in Iran that have a lot of potential," he said. "And I always say if I was in Iran, I would never have accomplished anything better."

Since a young Asghari joined his father, a tow-truck driver, in Los Angeles, he said, "I've always been working. The second I came to America, I was sweeping the floor of my cousin's tow truck shop and then as a mechanic.

"The reason why I'm in entertainment right now is because my journey just took me this way," he added. "Whether I was an athlete or in entertainment or having a business, I would always be the same person . . . it doesn't change me, working with John Travolta or sweeping my cousin's floor."

Even having been around Spears for as long as he was, he said, "I'm always surprised meeting people that have been in this industry for a long time, especially icons. The more successful someone that has been, the more known, the more iconic, the most charismatic, the person is usually the hardest working person and the most humble person."

With Travolta, "We talked about cigars, we talked about Iran, we talked about cars, we talked about airplanes," Asghari said.

And how about Scientology, given that Travolta has famously been a member of the controversial religion for decades? Did Travolta try to recruit him?

"Absolutely not!" he said. "I don't even know what that is. So no. No, never. He was an absolute professional, just an amazing person, an amazing dad, amazing family man."

'Good American'

Up next, Asghari has made a short film called "The Good American," which takes place in Iran and America. He plays an Iranian refugee and ride-share driver living in Los Angeles. It will enter the festival circuit this fall.

"As an artist, I feel like it's our responsibility to not get involved politically, but to get involved emotionally and to get behind projects that truly mean something to you," he said. "This was a Hollywood production showing what really goes down in Iran and how the immigrants react when they come to this country."

The conflicts tearing his homeland apart for the past few months "haven't made me feel good at all," he continued. "I mean, who likes to watch their country taken hostage by their own government and doing all these horrible things and getting them involved in a war that they can't defend themselves? It doesn't feel good at all, but it gives me motivation to be able to continue to be able to represent and to be able to do things for my people."

He sees himself, he said, as a rose growing up through concrete.

"The concrete was the country I came from — and the rose is me growing in unknown circumstances."

NEXT ACT: Asghari has been dating real-estate agent Brooke Irvine (above) for two years — and said he does want to have children at some point. "She's amazing," he said.

REEL LIFE: Asghari (center left, with rapper Quavo) co-stars with John Travolta in the movie "The Gentleman Thief," out later this month. He said that, as a young boy in Iran, he learned English by watching Travolta's movies.

Alums campfired up by collap$e

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THERE'S s'more bidders.

David Zaslav has some rivals in his attempt to help buy "summer camp kings" **Michael** and **David Shabsels** out of their $500 million debt and revive their camps, Page Six has learned.

We're told camp alumni are getting their bunks back together to buy parts of the firm.

"Several other . . . camps have alumni who are quietly organizing their own capital to bid on it directly — ordinary former campers, now adults, are trying to out-organize institutional buyers to keep their childhood camps intact, for the future of their children and generations to come," an insider familiar with the situation told Page Six.

The Shabsels invested in more than 30 camps across the US, with at least 20 of them catering towards Jews.

They filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after Israeli creditors filed a lawsuit claiming the brothers owe $210 million — $270 million including interest. Additional suits were filed by other creditors, totaling more than $100 million, according to the Jerusalem Post. Tons of the brothers' other companies, including dozens of real estate assets, also filed Chapter 11.

The filings have thrust the camps into one of the biggest bankruptcy cases in real estate history, according to the Real Deal, which reported on the sudden collapse of the brothers' company, Simad Holdings, just as camp season kicked off in June.

The brothers reportedly sold their Camp Achim in the Catskills to its longtime manager for $7 million. Our source said, "There are stalking horse bids on many of the camps, including $17 million for Chen-A-Wanda" in the Poconos.

Zaslav bid $68 million on Mohawk Day Camp in Westchester County, a camp his adult children attended in their youth. "This is a personal family investment that reflects our lifelong belief that summer camp can be a wonderful part of a child's growth," the Warner Bros. Discovery honcho told Page Six via a spokesperson.

A rep for the Shabsels did not comment.

Kin lost in space

MORE like Star Drek! **William Shatner** and **George Takei** say early episodes of "Star Trek" were so badly panned, even their families hated it. Takei told AARP's Movies for Grownups he watched the first episode with his brother, who said, "They paid you for that, huh? Well, that's good." The show ended after three seasons. "The fans who discovered it gave us this totally unexpected, undreamed-of longevity," Takei, 89, said. Shatner, who recently revealed he's in remission from cancer at 95, added, "Although the background was futuristic, the foreground was what happens because you're a human being. And I think that was the key to 'Star Trek's' success." Their characters star in "Star Trek: Strange New Worlds" on Paramount+.

Can't 'Miss' her

MANHATTAN, I Feel Like a Woman! **Shania Twain** has been all over town. After taping "The Tonight Show," DuJour magazine's summer cover star (above) arrived to an issue launch at **James Huddleston**'s Gospel nightclub in Nolita wearing an electric orange jumpsuit. She received a 10-minute standing ovation, we hear. Publisher **Jason Binn** introduced her to a packed room, calling her look "absolutely flawless." Twain also performed for SiriusXM at Racket in Chelsea, singing hits like "You're Still the One" and songs from her new album, "Little Miss Twain."

Sydney Sweeney and BFF Amélie Tremblay are selfie-shly lovin' life on a road trip promoting Syd's "Small Town Girl" SYRN bralette line.

syrn/Instagram

Elvis' licks for less

A guitar owned, played and signed by Elvis Presley is hitting the market for a surprisingly low $650,000. The King owned the 1950s acoustic during his Las Vegas comeback era in the 1970s, and according to MS Rau — the New Orleans antiques dealer that's selling the piece — a friend of Presley's said he once grabbed it from his car in Sin City, played "That's All Right," signed it and gave it to the friend as a gift. Several of Presley's guitars have fetched impressive prices at auction, including his 1942 Martin D-18, which sold for $1.32 million in 2020. But the guitar record goes to **David Gilmour**'s famed 1969 Fender Stratocaster, the "Black Strat," which recently sold for $14.55 million.

We hear

THAT longevity doctor **Michael Hall** launched his book, "Infinite Youth" . . . THAT **Jean Shafiroff** was honored by LTV Studios for her show, "Successful Philanthropy" . . . THAT Suzanne Somers' widower **Alan Hamel** celebrated his 90th birthday in Las Vegas with his new girlfriend, **Joanna Cassidy** of "Blade Runner."

Cakewalk to 85

MARTHA Stewart got a head start on her Aug. 3 85th birthday celebrations with an intimate dinner with pals at the Polo Bar. A spy tells us the lifestyle mogul dined with Bilt Rewards' **Ankur Jain** and **Sean Walsh**, and was surprised with a towering coconut cake before boxing up the leftovers to enjoy at home. Stewart (above) then headed to her company, Marquee Brands in Midtown, where we're told she blew out the candle on a massive Cipriani meringue cake and toasted with Whispering Angel rosé. A video tribute featured well wishes from **Jalen Brunson**, **Kris Jenner**, **Gordon Ramsay**, **Eric Ripert**, **Khloé Kardashian**, **Benny Blanco**, **José Andrés** and "Today" stars **Savannah Guthrie**, **Craig Melvin**, **Al Roker** and **Carson Daly**.

'Odyssey' ship's hull-abaloo

VIKINGS spent three centuries pillaging their way around the North Atlantic, wreaking untold destruction — and now they're whining about a little dent in a boat. A Swedish Viking museum claims Universal Pictures still owes it about $6,000 after allegedly returning a replica Viking ship worse for wear following the filming of **Christopher Nolan**'s blockbuster "The Odyssey." (Apparently a Viking longship makes a good stand-in for an ancient Greek ship.) **Peter Olausson**, chairman of the Värmlands Viking Center, told The New York Times the attraction agreed to rent out its nearly 60-foot vessel, the Glad av Gillberga. When the ship returned from filming in the Mediterranean, Olausson said it had a cracked hull, damaged rigging and needed repainting. The museum submitted an invoice covering materials. Despite the dispute, Olausson said he loved the movie and was delighted to spot his beloved ship about 10 times on-screen. Universal told the Times all invoices "were paid in full, including repairs," and that the studio has contacted the museum "to clear up any misunderstanding." Call it a Thor point.

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Home, home on the range

It's not the White House, but it sure is a nice retreat away from the District.

Vice **President JD Vance**, his wife **Usha** and their four children (inset and below) are moving to the country.

But don't expect a "Hillbilly Elegy" kind of hardscrabble country existence.

Instead, the Second Family — who welcomed their fourth child, **Alec Neel** (below), last Sunday — are moving to Middleburg, Va. That's the "horse and hunt" capital of America, and one of the most elite, under-the-radar and exclusive enclaves in the country.

The Vances are renting two of the four homes that comprise Wolver Hill Farm, a 500-acre estate owned by federal contractor **Charles "Chuck" Kuhn**, a data center developer with close ties to the White House, sources told Gimme Shelter. One home will be for the Vances; the other will be for their security detail. There's plenty of room on the grounds for Atlas, the family's German Shepherd, to run around.

"It's a lovely, idyllic place to raise a family," a source said. "It's a whole Kennedy-esque compound, with four homes on the property. Usha just had her baby. It's a great place to nest — a wonderful community. It's so quiet. You can see why they would want a place like that on a quiet country lane with beautiful trees and stone walls."

Kuhn did not return calls at press time.

Secret Service security detail will move into an adjacent home on the property, sources said.

If the Vances need help moving, Kuhn can help with that, too.

He's also the founder of JK Moving Services, which moved **President Trump** in and out of the White House as well as other presidents from both parties, including the Clintons, the Bidens and the Obamas.

While the moving company is non-partisan, we hear that Kuhn is keen on backing Vance's potential presidential run in 2028.

Black SUVs and a helicopter were spotted at the farm a few weeks ago, which got locals buzzing on social media. Many shared concerns that choppers and the Secret Service security will ruin their idyll.

The small town of just 750 people has some wealthy and powerful residents. They include **Erik Prince**, the MAGA ally and founder of the defunct private mercenary company Blackwater, which is now part of Constellis, a security and defense conglomerate. Prince's estate, known as Blackwater Ranch, is across the road from Wolver Hill Farm.

One of the world's richest women, billionaire candy queen heir **Jacqueline Mars**, also lives nearby, in the Plains, where she operates a working farm and equestrian estate known as Stonehall Farm.

The farm itself is adjacent to the exclusive Salamander Resort & Spa, the flagship five-star luxury resort founded by BET co-founder **Sheila Johnson**, the country's first black female billionaire.

The resort, which sits on 340 acres, is a big draw for DC power players and political fundraisers.

The Vances won't have much to do in the one-traffic-stop town, just 45 miles west of downtown Washington, DC, but perhaps that's the point.

For meals, there's a local Safeway for groceries, and along with Salamander's offerings, there's the Red Fox Inn & Tavern, which was founded in 1728 and bills itself as one of the oldest continuously operated inns in the country. It's where "happy hour" is called the "Middleburg Social Hour," and offers specials like a half bottle of Thibaut-Janisson with "chips and caviar" for $48.

A source said that Vance will keep the US Naval Observatory in DC as his primary residence. It's where all vice presidential families have lived since Walter Mondale in 1977.

Kuhn bought the property with his wife, **Stacy**, via an LLC, for $8.5 million in 2020. The Kuhns are also placing a conservation easement on the estate to protect it from future development, according to a Kuhn company press release.

An inside source declined to comment on the terms of the lease but said: "It's a second home. The purpose is to serve as a getaway outside the city for their children and they plan to go there on weekends."

"The rent for the property will be at fair market value, determined with reference to the rent for comparable properties in the area," **Chris Ashby**, Vance's personal lawyer, told Gimme Shelter in a statement.

Middleburg has also been home to Camelot royalty.

In the early 1960s, President John F. Kennedy and his then-wife Jackie built a home on a massive estate on 167 acres in the area. They called it Wexford.

Jackie was keen on having her children grow up riding horses.

Even movie stars have been drawn to the quiet chi-chi, equestrian life of Middleburg.

Elizabeth Taylor lived just outside Middleburg when she was married to her sixth husband, Senator John Warner. During their marriage, from 1976 to 1982, they lived at Atoka Farm, a 400-plus acre estate in Marshall, Va., where they were married.

In addition to the deal with Vance, Kuhn is also selling a 149-acre parcel of land known as the Middleburg Training Center in Loudoun County to the US Army, to house the army's famed Caisson ceremonial horses that participate in funeral ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

The controversial sale was opposed by the Virginia Equine Alliance and locals who want to preserve the property for thoroughbred racing and training.

HIGH COST OF FREEDOM

'$2-3M' price for pardon lawyers

By EMILY GOODIN

WASHINGTON — When former California congressional candidate Omar Navarro started asking his Republican allies about a presidential pardon, he got hit with sticker shock.

"I talked to people that were in the Republican Party, and people that supported me in the past, and they made insinuations that you have to pay this law firm $2 million, $3 million and they'll help you get a pardon," Navarro told The Post from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles.

The 37-year-old, who was sentenced in February to four years in federal prison after pleading guilty to embezzling $250,000 from his campaign, declined to give names, claiming: "The person that told me this is pretty powerful in the government, in the government agencies, like in the military and stuff like that, and so I'm very scared to even say anything about that."

There is no suggestion that these payments constitute illegal activity, not least by President Trump or anyone in the White House. However, the amount clemency clients pay firms and fixers to advocate for them is staggering.

Hopefuls pay up

"President Trump takes his absolute constitutional power to issue pardons and commutations seriously," press secretary Karoline Leavitt told The Post Thursday. "That's why we have a rigorous review process involving the Department of Justice and the White House Counsel's Office — a team of elite lawyers who carefully evaluate every request before it reaches the President's desk, and he serves as the final decision-maker.

"The President finds it detestable that anyone would even attempt to profit off pardons."

Yet a parade of clemency hopefuls are more than willing to shell out seven figures for the lobbying industry's fastest-growing sector, euphemistically called "executive relief."

Nursing home owner Joseph Schwartz was pardoned by Trump in November 2025 after admitting to withholding $39 million in payroll taxes from Uncle Sam. He paid three different firms a total of $1.1 million to advocate on his behalf, according to disclosure reports reviewed by The Post.

Binance founder Changpeng Zhao and his firm spent $2 million on "executive relief" efforts. The controversial crypto CEO was pardoned by Trump in October 2025 after pleading guilty to violating US anti-money laundering laws.

Zhao served a four-month prison sentence before being sprung, but not before paying $30,000 to the law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP, while Binance paid the same firm $70,000 for the same work. Binance also paid another DC firm, Checkmate Government Relations, $1.9 million for "executive relief" and other issues related to cryptocurrency.

Lawyers cash in

The Vogel Group — founded by former Republican Senate staffer Alex Vogel) brought in $270,000 on behalf of four clemency clients in Trump's first term, according to lobbying disclosure reports, including "scam PAC" operator William Tierney, who pleaded guilty to defrauding thousands of donors, and New York stockbroker Ron Bauer, who is serving 20 months in prison for manipulating seven different stocks in a "pump-and-dump" scheme. Both have not been pardoned.

Anne Pramaggiore, the former Exelon Utilities CEO convicted in May 2023 for her role in a nearly decade-long scheme to bribe then-Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, shelled out $600,000 to two different firms seeking a pardon. She was released on bail this past April with a new trial ordered.

Of Pramaggiore's money, $280,000 went to former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's RRB Strategies. Blagojevich can claim expertise after Trump commuted his 14-year prison sentence for corruption in 2020 and followed that up with a full pardon in February 2025.

University of St. Thomas (Minn.) School of Law professor Mark Osler, who also runs a clemency clinic, told The Post that the going rate for services that amount to the promise to use connections to get a person's name and case in front of Trump is "shocking."

Top lawyers in Washington, D.C., charge an average of $600 to over $1,000 per hour. Partners at top firms can charge up to $1,500 per hour for specialized services, according to Clio, a legal management service.

Process changed

Margaret Love, an attorney who's worked on more than 100 pardon applications, said she charged an average of $7,500 to help clemency applicants file with the Justice Department's Office of the Pardon Attorney.

Once an application is received, the DOJ recommends waiting until five years after a prisoner's sentence is completed and contrition is displayed before even considering a pardon.

But Trump, according to Love, has "abandoned the regular process" and turned executive clemency into a free-for-all.

SpaceX's latest superstar

SpaceX's mammoth Starship rocket blasted off Friday on another test flight stretching halfway around the world, this time releasing 20 of the most advanced Starlinks.

Towering 407 feet, Starship soared from the company's base at the southern tip of Texas. NASA monitored the space-skimming flight, a critical step toward using the Starship as a lunar lander for moon crews.

The hourlong journey ended with a splashdown so soft that the spacecraft remained afloat in the Indian Ocean as the SpaceX webcast drew to a close, drawing cheers from employees back at the launch site.

Elon Musk's SpaceX had replaced six of the 33 engines on the first-stage booster after they failed to ignite last week, resulting in a last-second launch abort. The previous Starship flight in May also experienced engine trouble, which prevented the booster from making a controlled return.

This time, all of the engines fired at liftoff, but not enough of them lit back up for the booster's return, causing it to descend too fast and slam into the Gulf of Mexico. The spacecraft continued soaring eastward, popping out the Starlinks one by one 124 miles up before reentering. *AP*

AP Photo/Eric Gay

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Cops wound armed man

Bodies found in burning home

By JOE MARINO
and TINA MOORE

Luiz C. Ribeiro

BIZARRE SHOWDOWN: Police and firefighters examine the scene in Far Rockaway where a gunman confronted cops outside a burning home.

Cops shot a gun-wielding madman when he refused to drop his weapon outside a Queens home after a "large fiery explosion" on Saturday — and then they discovered two of his family members dead inside, police said.

The NYPD responded to Ocean Crest Boulevard near Hartman Lane in Far Rockaway around noon after receiving a 911 call of shots fired inside the home, police said.

"The caller stated that her husband was armed and had a history with mental illness," Assistant Chief Christopher McIntosh said.

The wife also told 911 that her 33-year-old husband, Kegan Thomas, "killed them," he added.

When police arrived, the wife was outside and told them she heard gunshots "and when she walked into the room she saw a body on the bed," McIntosh said, adding that she immediately ran out of the building and called 911.

"Additionally, she told responding officers to be careful because her husband has a shotgun," he said.

By 12:15 p.m., cops had called in the NYPD's Emergency Services Unit. As they were about to forcefully enter the home, "a large fiery explosion erupted from the house," according to McIntosh.

Bulletproof vest

The gunman, who was clad in a bulletproof vest with additional ammunition in it and wielding a shotgun, emerged from the house and confronted cops, the sources said.

The suspect was shot by multiple officers after refusing "numerous commands to drop the shotgun," a police source said.

"Officers issued numerous verbal commands for the subject to put his hands up so he could drop the weapon," McIntosh said.

"After failing to comply with repeat commands to put his hands up and still armed (with) the shotgun, officers discharged their weapons and struck the subject."

Police discovered two bodies with bullet wounds inside the home — who were believed to be the man's mother-in-law and sister-in-law, sources told The Post.

The suspect was taken to Jamaica Hospital in critical condition and was undergoing surgery, the sources said. He has no criminal record or mental health history with the NYPD, according to McIntosh.

Rapper 'kin' shoots sis, kills self

A Georgia teenager who was "like a nephew" to Grammy-winning rapper 21 Savage shot his little sister by accident before turning the gun on himself, according to Atlanta's 11Alive.

Seven Shirley, 14, took his own life after allegedly shooting sister, Lyric, 12, in the neck Wednesday afternoon at a home in southeast Atlanta, grieving relatives said.

"Just that fast, that boy had made the decision to kill himself," Seven's grandmother, Sharon Smith, said through tears. "He probably sat up there and thought, 'I'm finna go to jail, they're going to ridicule me, everybody is going to be doing this and that and this . . .' and he couldn't take it."

The family has no idea what the teen was doing with the gun, Smith told the outlet. Lyric reportedly remains hospitalized after undergoing three surgeries to her neck and vocal cords.

Jeanne Erickson

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Kyiv delivers vs. retailer

UKRAINE STRIKES: Ukraine forces have hit warehouses for Wildberries, known as Russia's Amazon, including in St. Petersburg.

Getty Images

Kyiv ramped up its tailored attacks on "Russia's Amazon," striking another Wildberries warehouse Saturday — the seventh attack this week on the online giant it accuses of supplying Moscow's military operations.

Ukraine fired more than 300 drones into Russian territory Saturday — including toward the Wildberries warehouse in Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth-largest city.

Videos from the scene showed employees fleeing the logistics hub, as vehicles went up in flames in the parking lot, with thick plumes of black smoke towering over the area.

Meanwhile, Russia killed at least 11 Ukrainians, including three children, and wounded 70 more across six cities Saturday, firing two missiles and 157 drones overnight into Saturday, Ukraine's Air Force said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will meet with President Trump Tuesday in Washington, where he also plans to attend the funeral of Sen. Lindsey Graham, who was one of Kyiv's staunchest supporters before his sudden death on July 11.

Gabrielle Fahmy, With Wires

CHINA 'LAB RATS'

Star US scientists are defecting to Beijing

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

China is aggressively poaching America's top scientists in its rabid quest for global dominance in fields like medicine, space and tech, with at least 105 of the best and brightest defecting to the communist nation since 2024, The Post has learned.

Nearly half of the recent wave of defectors in the last year are in biotechnology and medicine, according to a Post analysis, suggesting China is investing heavily to surpass the US in medical innovation.

Other deserters specialize in critical fields like space science, climate change, computers and semiconductors.

They've all left US universities or major corporations to join what are in most cases Chinese Communist Party-funded institutions — lured by cash, with some like turncoat Harvard professor Charles Lieber promised a salary of $750,000 plus $150,000 in living expenses, and often their own sprawling research laboratories.

Some of the prize CCP acquisitions include:

■ Lieber, the former chair of Harvard's chemistry department, who resurfaced last year as the founding director of a research institute in Shenzhen, where he will lead the race to develop the world's first AI super-soldier. His new lab, based on his three decades of work at Harvard, where he received at least $8 million in funding from the Department of Defense, is entirely bankrolled by the communist government. The Ivy League scientist was convicted in 2021 of lying to the feds about his ties to China.

■ Zhonghua Gao, a leading brain development researcher who left Penn State's College of Medicine in January to join the newly established Shenzhen University of Advanced Technology, where he will recruit others. During his more than two decades in the US, Gao led multimillion-dollar research on autism and cancer development, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

■ Renowned biologist Xianzhong Xu, who returned to China in May, a few months after four researchers in his lab at the University of Michigan were arrested for conspiring to smuggle biological material. Xu was not arrested with the others, and there's no evidence he was involved in that scheme.

■ Virologist Haitao Hu, who left the University of Texas last December for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Microbiology, where he will lead a team developing vaccines for major viral infections including HIV — mirroring the work he did for more than four years at Walter Reed for the US military.

■ Omar Yaghi, who won last year's Nobel Prize in chemistry for creating sponge-like materials that can trap water and gas and could be used to produce drinking water from desert air or capture carbon dioxide. Yaghi, 65, left the University of California Berkeley earlier this month for Tsinghua University in Beijing, where he is leading an institute that uses artificial intelligence to accelerate the discovery of new materials.

■ Astrophysicist Liang Dai, who left Johns Hopkins University for Fudan University this spring. Dai, 38, who works on hunting black holes, was awarded a Sloan Research Fellowship for the "brightest young scientists" in 2021.

Additional reporting by Nick Labbat

News OF THE World®

ENGLAND

It's one small step for romantic shorties wanting to stand tall in the dating game.

London pizza restaurant Dinner for One Hundred hosted a dating event that *banned* people standing 6 feet and above.

The owners said they did it in response to the London pop-up club Land Of The Giants, where male guests *must* be 6 feet or taller.

JAPAN

This must be some spooky stuff!

Universal Studios Japan is mandating a consent form for their new psychological horror attraction for adults 18 and over.

The theme park will be introducing Zanzo, where guests will be in a nightmare research facility, as part of its Halloween Horror Nights this fall.

CANADA

This government intends to send fishy violators up the river.

The Alberta provincial government is cracking down on residents who are intentionally dumping goldfish, some the size of dinner plates, into their waterways.

The province has introduced its "Don't Let It Loose" campaign and is threatening fines of up to $71,000 and/or a year in prison.

Officials say the wayward goldfish can harm delicate native aquatic ecosystems.

MEXICO

These true believers got hosed, and some may not like it!

A Catholic priest went viral for his unorthodox way of dispensing holy water.

Father Rubén Pérez Rubio used a pressure washer to spray the crowd of parishioners gathered to honor the town of Contepec's patron St. James the Apostle.

The video sparked an online debate over whether the action was sacrilegious or innovative.

AUSTRALIA

A wall dating back to 1928 has ignited a local conversation about whether it should be preserved.

The 15-inch wall, which sits above Western Australia's popular Wave Rock tourist attraction, was built to collect rainwater.

But as it ages, it is allowing water to seep beneath its surface, damaging the Wave Rock, formed 2.7 billion years ago, through erosion.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

LOU KOLLER
Succumbs to cancer.

‘Sick of It’ frontman dies at 59

Lou Koller, the longtime frontman and co-founder of New York hardcore band Sick of It All, has died after a two-year battle with esophageal cancer. He was 59.

The band announced Koller’s death Friday in a statement shared on Instagram.

“It’s with unbelievable sadness that we announce to our worldwide hardcore family the passing of our brother Lou Koller,” the group wrote. “The level of loss that we feel at this time is overwhelming.”

Koller first revealed in June 2024 that doctors discovered a cancerous tumor in his esophagus that spread into his stomach, forcing the band to cancel its European tour.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, Koller co-founded Sick of It All in 1986 alongside his brother Pete Koller and drummer Armand Majidi. Over the next four decades, the band became one of the defining acts of the New York hardcore scene. *Chris Rogers*

Pam: No back to ‘Baywatch’

Pamela Anderson revealed Friday that no one involved with Fox’s upcoming “Baywatch” reboot has reached out to her about making a cameo.

“No one’s reached out to me,” she told Deadline. “I don’t know much about it.”

However, the 59-year-old said producers did approach her sons Brandon and Dylan Lee about getting involved behind the scenes.

The “Last Showgirl” star, who played lifeguard C.J. Parker from 1992 to 1997, said she has no desire to return to the beach. *Chris Rogers*

Movies, once written off, rule again

Return of the kings!

JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

WE’RE halfway through the summer, and here’s a previously unthinkable proclamation: The movies are back, baby!

The big screen’s obituary has been written so many times — even by the people who make films. TV, everybody long thought, was supposed to be the victorious usurper.

When “The Sopranos” and “The Wire” were airing on HBO (Home Box Office, lest we forget) in the aughts, viewers said, “Wow, the acting and writing are just as good as in any prestige movie.”

Of the series “Game of Thrones” and “Lost,” they cooed, “Man, the cinematography and special effects rival the blockbusters I could pay $15 to see at the cinema.”

And after COVID hit and theaters closed, streaming appeared to be the obvious way of the future. Big companies such as Disney, Apple and Warner Bros. bet that audiences would never leave their couch again. Theatrical was over. The inevitable migration was complete.

Not so fast

Oops. That has turned out to be a hugely expensive unforced error.

Because in 2026 the movies have returned to their previous cultural dominance, while poor TV’s relevance has hit rock bottom.

Underestimated younger generations are mobbing the multiplex, and the box office is on track to hit $10 billion for the first time since 2019.

And that’s not just owed to Christopher Nolan’s gargantuan “The Odyssey,” which has grossed a staggering $346 million in its first week of release — 54% ahead of “Oppenheimer” at the same point.

Yes, the Matt Damon mythology epic is top dog in terms of buzz. But this year, there has been a steady and varied offering of box-office hits: Dramas and comedies, biopics and animated family fare, originals and IP, science fiction and period romance, Davids and Goliaths.

Movies — creative and smart ones — are making money again and have wrestled back the conversation.

There is an unshakable feeling that you’re the odd man out if you miss “Obsession,” the $750,000 independent horror flick directed by a 26-year-old that’s grossed $443 million.

Everybody was talking about the mind-blowing twist of “The Drama” ($132 million) with Zendaya and Robert Pattinson.

Critics spewed venom at “Michael,” the Michael Jackson biopic, but it sold $1 billion worth of tickets — the most ever for that genre. Controversy is exciting, too.

There are other winners: Emerald Fennell’s sexy and much-debated “Wuthering Heights” ($241 million), the out-of-nowhere space-exploration phenom “Project Hail Mary” ($683 million) and A24’s Gen. Z game-changer “Backrooms” ($387 million).

That list has something for everyone.

You know what doesn’t anymore? TV. What exactly is on TV — network, cable, streaming, whatever — that’s making waves, riling people up or getting them to cancel their evening plans?

Practically nothing. Peak TV is a hazy memory. Ninety-eight percent of the inventory is background noise at best.

Smaller screens

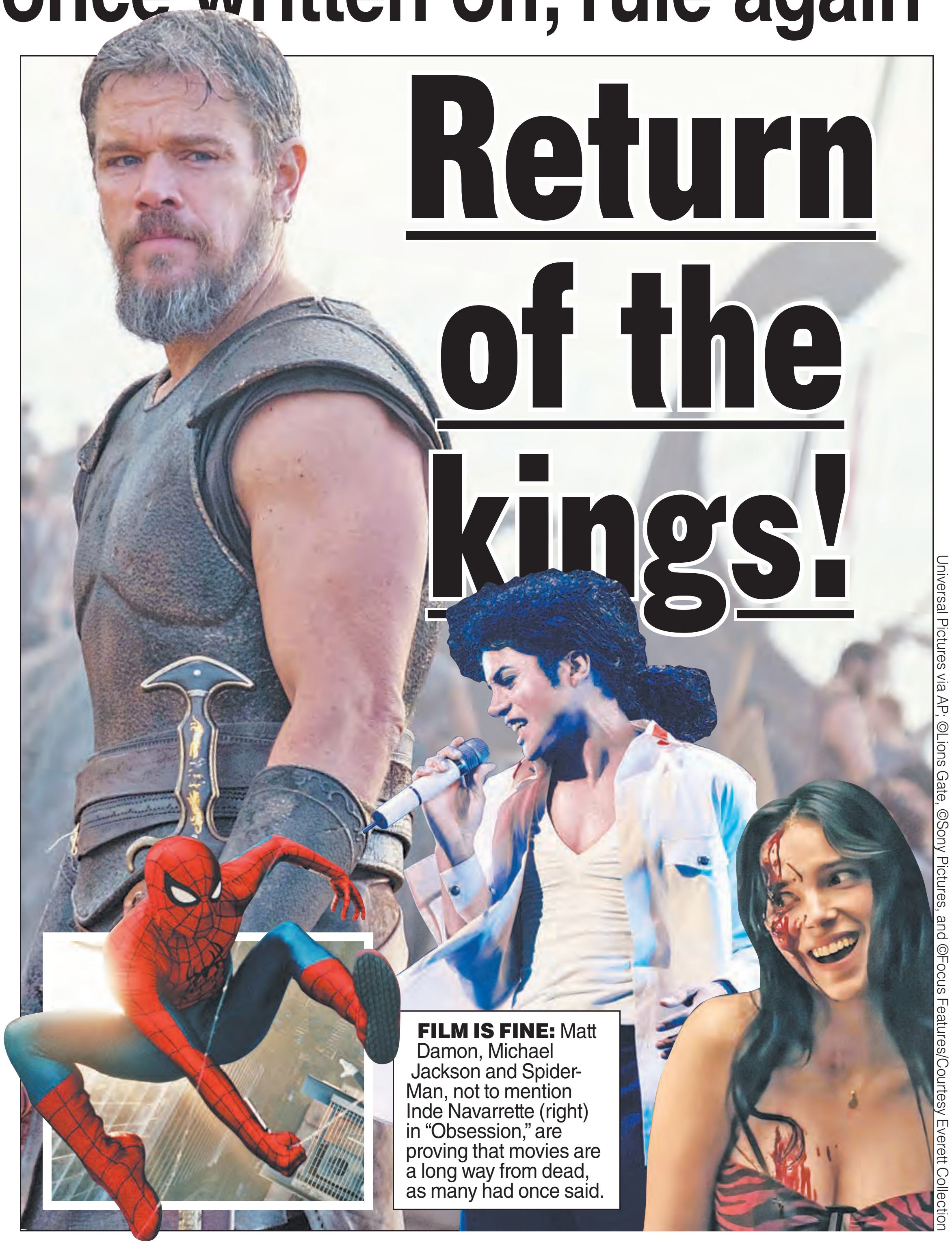
There are relative successes, of course, but none are enormous or breaking through into the wider consciousness.

The most popular network series is “Tracker” on CBS. Who cares?

There’s Taylor Sheridan’s “Yellowstone” followup “Dutton Ranch,” which is so huge no one ever mentions it. “The Pitt” has scratched the audience’s itch by reverting back to “ER” and “24.” And, for the pinky-out set, there was Ryan Murphy’s miniseries “Love Story: John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette.” So lovely and so over.

“House of the Dragon” gets strong numbers for HBO, though not nearly on the level of the final seasons of “Game of Thrones.” And it’s hardly a talker, perhaps because the whole story’s outcome is a Google search away.

When the Emmy nominations dropped earlier this month, the world cared about them even less than usual.



FILM IS FINE: Matt Damon, Michael Jackson and Spider-Man, not to mention Inde Navarrette (right) in “Obsession,” are proving that movies are a long way from dead, as many had once said.

Universal Pictures via AP, ©Lions Gate, ©Sony Pictures, and ©Focus Features/Courtesy Everett Collection

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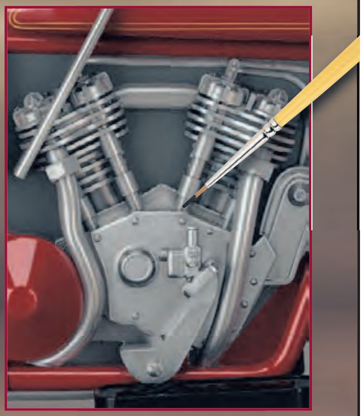

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Horror house in Michigan

AP

GRIM DUTY: Investigators work at a Michigan house fire where six kids and two adults were found dead.

By SONYA GUGLIARA

A suspicious fire in a Michigan home where a family of eight — including six children — were found dead is being probed as a possible murder-suicide.

Members of the tragic household have been identified by grief-stricken loved ones.

Amanda “Mandy” Karolkiewicz, 39, her husband Kristopher, 47, and their six children, ages 5 to 15, were found dead inside their Grand Haven Township home on Friday around noon, Karolkiewicz’s relatives revealed.

The Ottawa County sheriff’s and medical examiner’s office have not yet confirmed their deaths.

Authorities said that some of the victims had gunshot wounds. but did not specify which ones.

Authorities are also investigating the possibility of a horrific murder-suicide, but it is too early to confirm.

Police, however, are not looking for any outside suspects, NBC reported.

“My little sister Mandy, her husband, and my six nieces and nephews,” her sister Molly Cessna wrote on Facebook alongside an article about the shocking deaths.

“Everything’s just blurry. Please continue to pray, friends. please continue to pray as we try and piece everything together. Our hearts are utterly shattered. Tragic doesn’t even touch it.”

Karoliewicz’s parents, Steve and Becky Lawwill, also shared a heartbreaking post — a smiling family photo on the beach.

“So grateful for the joy they brought into our life. We are just so shattered,” they wrote.

Kid shot dead in Bronx

A 12-year-old boy was fatally shot in The Bronx Saturday when gunfire erupted near the Grand Concourse, police said.

The child was hit along with two men, who were left wounded, at around 5:30 p.m. on Elliot Place near Grand Concourse in the Mt. Eden neighborhood, police said.

It’s not clear who fired or who the intended target was.

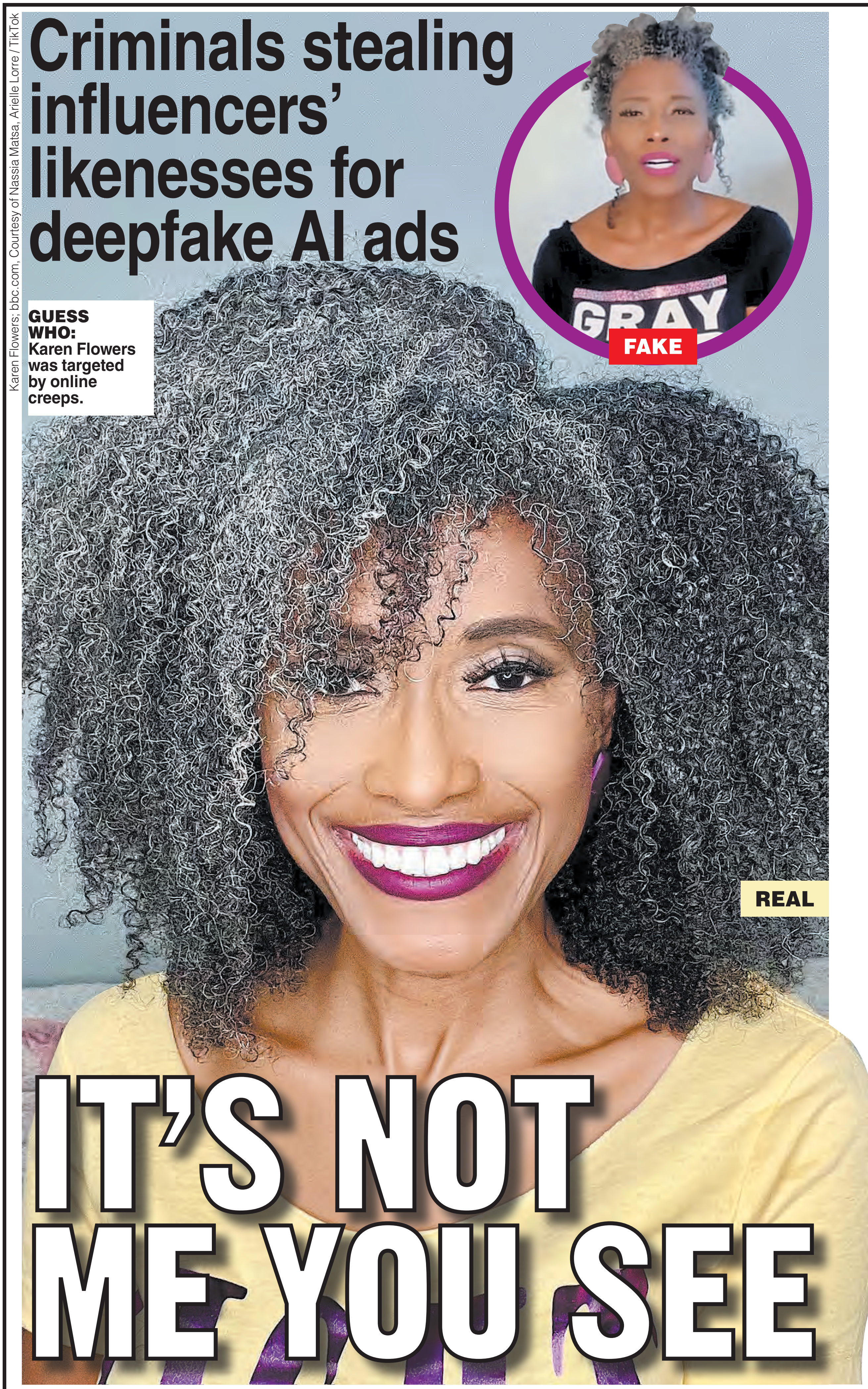
The child was shot in the left shoulder and taken to Lincoln Hospital, where he was declared dead.

A 25-year-old man was hit in the buttocks and a 34-year-old man was struck in the foot, police said.

Both were taken to Bronx Lebanon Hospital in stable condition by private means.

Tina Moore, Joe Marino

Criminals stealing influencers’ likenesses for deepfake AI ads



IT’S NOT ME YOU SEE

GUESS WHO: Karen Flowers was targeted by online creeps.

Karen Flowers; bbc.com, Courtesy of Nassia Matsa, Arielle Lorre / TikTok

By MICHAEL KAPLAN

KAREN Flowers, a 49-year-old beauty influencer based in Virginia, was recently sent a YouTube ad by her cousin. The clip featured an entity who looked just like Flowers promoting a life insurance company, but it wasn't actually her. It was a deepfake made using her likeness.

"[My cousin] said, 'I'm looking at it. It's you. But I know it's not you,' " Flowers, the founder of Curl House, a line of holistic hair-care products, told The Post. "Clearly, it was my image. I looked at it and knew exactly what YouTube video it came from. My lips were synchronized with the words, but it didn't sound like me."

HEY Y'ALL,
FAKE

UNREAL: Taylor Swift in a vid hawking cookware.

Rogue gangs in far-off countries are stealing the images of social media stars and repurposing them for their own purposes — often to create fabricated ads for products they've never heard of.

Influencers, whose livelihood is dependent on their hard-won credibility and relationships with their followers, are finding themselves powerless to stop it.

"It's horrifying," Flowers said.

$893 million fleeced

It's difficult to quantify exactly how big the problem is, but Google recently sued a Chinese network called Outsider Enterprise. The alleged cybercrime group is accused of using Google's artificial intelligence tools to make phony websites and push out more than 100,000 financial scams. Meanwhile, according to the FBI, copycatting was used by cybercriminals to leech Americans out of some $893 million in 2025 alone.

The trend of stealing people's likenesses started with celebrities. For years, in a low-tech version of the scam, criminals have been making social media accounts that appear to belong to celebrities and then contacting people pretending to be them, asking for money or gift cards.

RECOGNIZABLE: Nassia Matsa's image was hijacked then fed to her as an ad.

Over the last year or so, Oprah Winfrey, Kim Kardashian, Gwyneth Paltrow and other celebs have all had their images hijacked and used in deepfake videos, often selling unlikely products.

In 2024, Taylor Swift was made to look like she was leading an online giveaway of pricey Le Creuset cookware.

YouTube star MrBeast appeared to be hawking iPhones for $2 each if "you're one of the lucky 10,000 people," according to one video. He later went to X to blast "the deepfake scam of me."

Even the genial Tom Hanks has been hit. In 2023, he was turned into a pitchman for a dental plan. "I have nothing to do with it," he warned fans on Instagram.

The year prior, entrepreneur and TV personality Bethenny Frankel sued TikTok over her image being used without permission. She accused the platform of failing to stop deepfake ads that, according to NBC News, showed her selling counterfeit designer cardigans "with which [Frankel has] no affiliation," and cited harm to her personal brand.

'Here to stay'

According to NBC News, Frankel put up a TikTok post "with the intent to inform consumers about the deception," only for TikTok to remove it, deeming the post "abusive."

"This has to be addressed," Frankel said on "Good Morning America." "The bigger issue is TikTok and the wild, wild west of social media."

The case went into arbitration and Frankel's people said they "don't have information on where the lawsuit currently stands." TikTok did not respond to a request for comment.

"Good Morning America" ran a statement from TikTok that, in part, said, "We have strict policies to both protect people's hard earned intellectual property and keep misleading content off TikTok."

Unlike A-listers and huge reality stars, influencers and "micro-celebrities" often lack the means to fight back, and tracking down the scammers can be next to impossible.

"I looked up the company [that had the digitally recreated version of me] and it took me to a shell company," Flowers said. "I could never reach them. I didn't know where to send a cease-and-desist letter."

Finally, a consumer advocate from her hometown news station in Virginia stepped in and got YouTube to take down the bogus commercial.

YouTube did not respond to a request for comment, though Flowers, who has 102,000 followers on the platform, acknowledged, "I don't blame YouTube. I feel like these companies are catching up with AI, which is here to stay."

Kara Mendelsohn, a fashion influencer with 125,000 Instagram followers who worked for Calvin Klein in the 1990s, has also had her image stolen and used against her wishes.

She posted a still from one of the ads to Instagram Stories, writing "This is NOT me!!! This company has stolen my image and my voice to create this AI ad. There is also one for a GLP1 that is NOT me! I hate this and Instagram does nothing to take this down."

Meta — which owns Instagram and Facebook — told The Post that identifying this sort of content can be a challenge as technology constantly evolves, but said it is continually working to improve its systems and get a step ahead.

The company advises users to consider several factors to try and determine if content has been created as a deepfake. They include checking the trustworthiness of the account sharing the content and looking for details that might appear unnatural.

Deepfaked video
NOW FOR ANYBODY LISTENING
REAL
FRO
POD
MY ACTUAL LIKENESS
FAKE ME
THAT
SKAIND
CIAL
ED TO
OTE

FIGHTING BACK: "Skinfluencer" Arielle Lorre compares a real picture of herself to one used by the brand Skaind, who she is suing for allegedly stealing her likeness. Meanwhile Oprah (above) was one of the first celebs to have her image used to promote products she had nothing to do with.

Spotting scams

Image theft can sneak up on a person at the most unexpected times.

Nassia Matsa, a London-based model and journalist, was riding the city's Underground when, she told The Post, "I saw an ad with someone that looked like me. It felt very uncanny. The image came from an editorial that I did for a Paris-based magazine back in 2019.

"[The entity that did the phony ad] chose diverse models to seem modern and relevant, a very performative act, since none of us got paid or even consented to be part of this ad," she said.

More recently, "skinfluencer" Arielle Lorre, 40 and based in Los Angeles, was disturbed to find a deepfake of herself gushing about a skincare product from a company called Skaind, which she had never worked with, in an interview. The man giving the interview in the promotion posted to X that his image had also been stolen.

"You can imagine how unsettling it is to see yourself saying things you've never said, sitting in an interview you've never sat in," she told Inc. magazine. "Not only is it illegal, but it also dilutes my brand."

The issue underscores what can happen when bad actors use social media and artificial intelligence for their own nefarious means.

It all drives home a point made by Frankel on "Good Morning America" about videos online.

"I want people to know you must enter at your own risk," she said. "You must not operate freely. You must be protected."

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‘Break’ point

Tennis big ‘erasure’ suit

By KATHIANNE BONIELLO

The United States Tennis Association has no love for the family of the man who created the National Tennis Center, erasing his legacy from the famed sports complex in Queens while squeezing his heirs for nearly half a million dollars, a lawsuit claims.

The children of William “Slew” Hester claim the USTA violated a decades-old settlement agreement by demolishing their box in Arthur Ashe Stadium and offering “inferior” seats to the US Open — and only if they pay a whopping $460,000.

The stunning price tag left Hester’s surviving children, Bill and Kathryn, with no choice but to sue — for a second time — the organization their dad once led, they told The Post.

“It’s disappointing that the USTA’s current board doesn’t have a better understanding of who Slew Hester was, and what he did for the USTA and the US Open,” Bill Hester said.

A Mississippi oil man and one-time USTA president, Slew Hester was said to have been flying into NYC in the 1970s when he spotted what was then known as Singer Bowl, a city-owned facility used for the 1964 World’s Fair that had fallen into disrepair.

Hester met with city officials and persuaded them to build what became Louis Armstrong Stadium to host the US Open, ripping the competition from the staid, private West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills where it had been held and thrusting it onto a far more prominent — and lucrative — stage.

Construction was finished in 10 months, in time for the 1978 US Open.

A grateful USTA rewarded Hester with lifetime box seats for him and his heirs, a memorial plaque gracing the entrance and a namesake restaurant, his family said in a federal lawsuit.

“While the USTA does not comment on pending litigation, it should be noted that the USTA has fulfilled its commitment to the Hesters by providing them the opportunity to purchase seats in a location consistent with their prior seats and on the same basis as other purchasers,” a USTA spokesman said.

Post Weather Report

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Sunday

Today: Mostly sunny. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: Clear to partly cloudy. Low 65 to 71.

Monday

Tomorrow: An afternoon t-storm in spots. High 83 to 89.

Tomorrow night: A couple of evening showers. Low 66 to 72.

Tuesday

T-storms. High 77 to 83.

Evening
A heavy t-storm. Low 68 to 74.

Wednesday

A stray t-storm. High 79 to 85.

Evening
Showers around. Low 63 to 69.

Almanac

YESTERDAY’S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

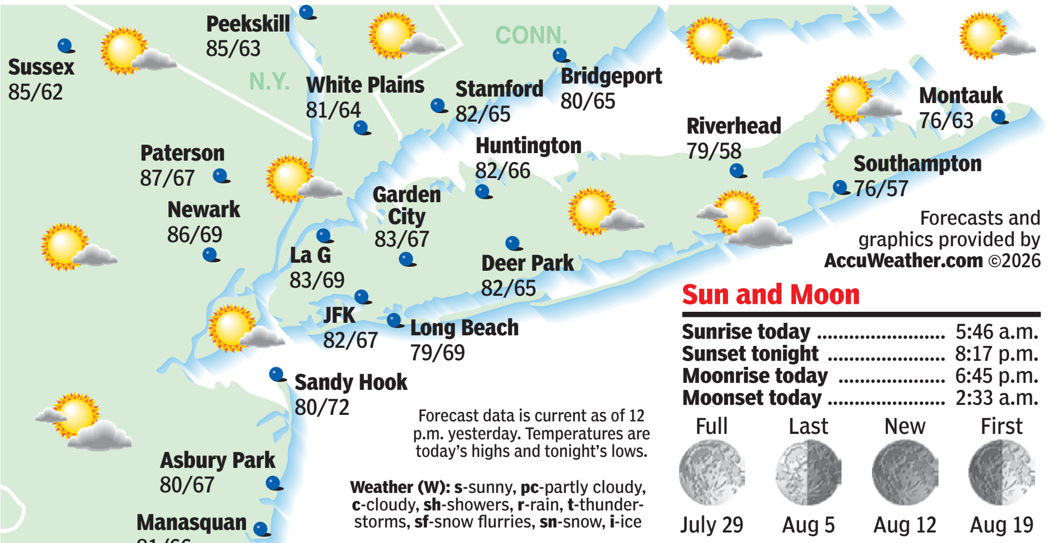
Temperature
High: 78, Low: 65, Mean: 72

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -6 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00”, Month: 3.69”,
Year: 21.51”, Normal year to date: 27.34”

Cooling Degree days yesterday 7
Total for the month (normal) 303 (315)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 703 (623)
Last year to date 682
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 78
UV index (for Sun.) .... 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 45%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Grass, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) ....Moderate


Sussex
85/62
Peekskill
85/63
N.Y.
CONN.
White Plains
81/64
Stamford
82/65
Bridgeport
80/65
Paterson
87/67
Huntington
82/66
Riverhead
79/58
Montauk
76/63
Southampton
76/57
Newark
86/69
Garden City
83/67
La G
83/69
Deer Park
82/65
JFK
82/67
Long Beach
79/69
Sandy Hook
80/72
Asbury Park
80/67
Manasquan
81/66
Toms River
82/62
N.J.
Long Beach
78/67
Atlantic City
83/63
Ocean City
80/67

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.

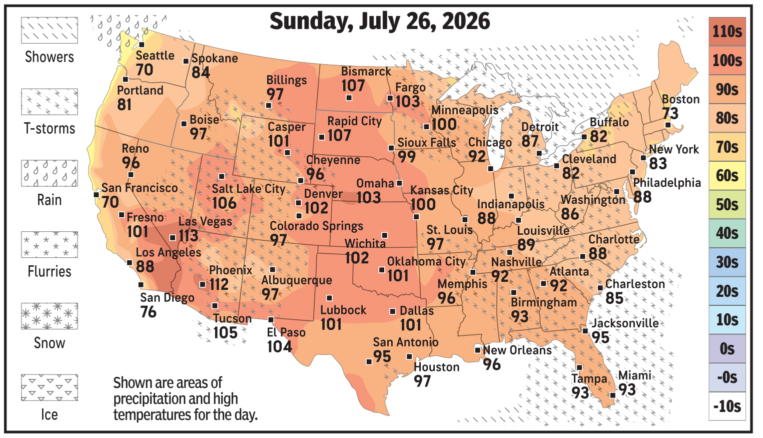
Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:46 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:17 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 6:45 p.m.
Moonset today .... 2:33 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19

Sunday, July 26, 2026


Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 70
Spokane 84
Portland 81
Billings 97
Bismarck 107
Fargo 103
Boise 97
Casper 101
Rapid City 107
Minneapolis 100
Detroit 87
Buffalo 82
Boston 73
Reno 96
Cheyenne 96
Sioux Falls 99
Chicago 92
Cleveland 82
New York 83
Philadelphia 88
San Francisco 70
Salt Lake City 106
Denver 102
Omaha 103
Kansas City 100
Indianapolis 88
Washington 86
Fresno 101
Las Vegas 113
Colorado Springs 97
St. Louis 97
Louisville 89
Charlotte 88
Los Angeles 88
Wichita 102
Oklahoma City 101
Nashville 92
Atlanta 92
Phoenix 112
Albuquerque 97
Memphis 96
Charleston 85
San Diego 76
Lubbock 101
Dallas 101
Birmingham 93
Tucson 105
El Paso 104
Jacksonville 95
San Antonio 95
Houston 97
New Orleans 96
Tampa 93
Miami 93
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	6:14a	6:33p	7:02a	7:16p
Fire Island	6:10a	6:47p	6:53a	7:29p
Hempstead	10:38a	10:43p	11:20a	11:21p
Huntington	10:18a	10:24p	11:01a	11:05p
Jones Inlet	5:58a	6:17p	6:46a	7:00p
Montauk Point	7:32a	7:59p	8:18a	8:42p
Port Washington	10:46a	10:52p	11:29a	11:30p
Sandy Hook	6:18a	6:37p	7:06a	7:20p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	86/64/pc	88/67/t
Danbury	82/59/s	83/65/t
Glens Falls	85/60/s	84/62/t
Gr Barrington	84/58/pc	85/63/t
Kingston	86/62/s	84/67/t
Liberty	81/59/pc	81/62/t
Monticello	81/57/pc	79/62/t
Newburgh	86/61/s	85/66/t
Poughkeepsie	86/61/s	84/65/t
Saratoga Springs	86/61/s	87/65/t
Stroudsburg	83/59/pc	81/66/t
Torrington	83/58/s	82/65/t
Syracuse	83/64/t	83/66/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	86/66/s	91/72/s
Baghdad	110/87/s	109/89/pc
Beijing	91/75/sh	93/76/t
Berlin	82/60/sh	73/54/pc
Cairo	92/76/s	94/74/pc
Dublin	67/53/sh	72/63/sh
Geneva	81/63/sh	84/59/r
Hong Kong	86/82/t	89/80/sh
Jerusalem	84/68/s	87/69/s
Kabul	89/69/pc	92/68/pc
London	80/57/c	84/62/pc
Madrid	90/66/s	95/70/s
Mexico City	76/55/sh	75/56/sh
Montreal	83/67/pc	82/67/sh
Moscow	68/58/pc	67/59/r
Paris	78/59/c	84/61/s
Rio de Janeiro	75/66/s	78/68/s
Rome	88/73/t	87/69/s
Sydney	66/51/pc	67/49/s
Tokyo	92/75/t	88/74/sh

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NJ escape from sex abductors

Duo 'trafficked' woman

By JEANNE ERICKSON

A New Jersey woman fought her way out of a brutal sex-trafficking trap after abuse by dozens of men at the hands of a couple who kidnapped her, prosecutors said last week.

The woman, who told investigators she had been threatened with the murder of her family if she refused to cooperate, allegedly endured days of abuse before escaping from a Gloucester City motel, they said.

Tamier Brown-Miller, of Philadelphia, and Dezeree Smith (inset), of Collingswood, NJ, were indicted last week.

Authorities say the two ran a commercial sex-trafficking operation between July and October 2025, moving victims through Cherry Hill, Atlantic City, Gloucester City and Philadelphia.

One adult victim first met Brown-Miller and Smith through social media and initially considered them friends, according to court records.

That changed during a house party in Philadelphia, at which Brown-Miller allegedly threatened to kill her family if she refused to work for him.

Two years later, the woman was standing outside a Philly 7-Eleven when a black car pulled up with Brown-Miller and a second man.

Terrified because Brown-Miller allegedly always carried a handgun and had threatened her family again, she got in, investigators said.

She was taken to a Holiday Inn in Philadelphia, where prosecutors say she was forced to have sex with men over the next two days. She was then driven across the Delaware River to the Super 8 Motel in Gloucester City.

Brown-Miller allegedly confiscated her phone and posted online escort advertisements offering her for commercial sex.

At some point, Smith allegedly returned the woman's phone, telling her Brown-Miller would shoot and kill her if she tried to leave.

'Jeopardy!' death

Courtney Shah, a seven-time "Jeopardy!" champion, has died at age 52 after a battle with brain cancer.

Shah (inset), a history professor at Lower Columbia College in Washington state for nearly 20 years, passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday morning, her daughter revealed on a CaringBridge page.

The late academic competed on "Jeopardy!" in 2021 and earned $120,558 for her winning streak and for second place finish on her eighth appearance, according to J! Archive.

She also competed in the 2022 Tournament of Champions.

"I really never imagined I would get here," she said in a behind-the-scenes video after her fifth game.

Shane Galvin

By SARA NATHAN

HARRY Styles is in the midst of a grueling 67-show world tour — and was forced to cancel a gig this week due to "tour illness," sources confirm.

Styles, 32, missed a gig Tuesday in Brazil, but was back in front of thousands of fans Friday night at MorumBIS in São Paulo, as it's still unclear who among his crew of 200 went down sick.

Within weeks, the star — who has revealed he started long-distance running as a way to cope with the pressures of fame — will embark on an astonishing 30-night residency at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

This comes after a record-breaking 12-date residency at Wembley Stadium earlier this summer in London, where he was spotted running the six-mile journey to the venue from his home.

During one performance in June, during a scorching heatwave, he sparked fears among fans as he appeared to choke on water and fell to the ground, before violently coughing and heaving.

This week's hiccup begs the question: Is this all too much for the "Watermelon Sugar" singer?

"It is definitely grueling," a friend told Page Six of the star's "Together, Together" tour, which could gross $1 billion. "But he loves it — and it's what he signed up for."

A promoter who has worked with the former One Direction heartthrob added, "It does take a toll. It's a physically demanding job. Harry is trying appease fan demand and be realistic."

Some 11.5 million fans tried to get tickets to MSG, according to Ticketmaster, but there's only room for about 18,000 revelers per night.

The tour is being helmed by Live Nation, and the promoter was quick to say, "The artist makes all the decisions, 100%. Harry knew what he was signing up for . . . He is working the arena and running around."

Indeed, the show regularly sees the star run two to three miles a night on stage, according to online sleuths.

'Incredibly demanding'

Styles frequently travels with his trainer, strength and conditioning coach Brad Gould, and has worked with former special forces soldier Thibo David, who got him ready for his Love on Tour, which stretched from September 2021 to July 2023.

In 2024, Thibo revealed that Styles, who has completed both the Berlin and Tokyo marathons, can run a mile in an impressive 5 minutes 13 seconds — a standard on part with some of the professional athletes he coaches.

Styles, Thibo told Hello! last year, wants to avoid injuries onstage and has worked hard to build endurance so that he can maintain high energy throughout the show.

"His tours are incredibly demanding, both physically and mentally, with long performances, travel and limited recovery time," Thibo said.

Styles also prioritizes mental health while on tour.

"Beyond physical fitness, he places a strong emphasis on mental clarity and stress management, ensuring he's fully present and capable of delivering his best on stage," Thibo said. "Hydration, sleep and balanced nutrition are equally essential in his preparation."

Harry's sessions included boxing and working out in legendary gyms, like the Chicago Bulls' facility, Thibo said, and they ran the stairs of every venue they visited.

Styles is promoting his fourth studio album, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 in March, with sales of 430,000 equivalent albums.

That lags a bit behind the US opening week for its predecessor, "Harry's House," which moved 521,500 equivalent album units in May 2022.

"Harry's House" yielded the 15-week Hot 100 chart-topper "As It Was" and the Album of the Year Grammy in 2023.

Although "KATTDO" hasn't won as many critical plaudits, the Styles friend pointed out it sold more than a million globally in its first week, adding, "This specific record was made for live music, so it's important to go on the road. It's a dance record, and he wants to be close to the fans. This was the record that Harry wanted to make."

After "Love on Tour," Styles took about two and a half years

A HARRY SITUATION: Harry Styles had to cancel a concert in Brazil this past week due to a mystery "tour illness," weeks after choking on water during a show — and having to stretch out flat on his back onstage. The singer bring his "Together, Together" to Madison Square Garden for a historic 30-show run from Aug.26 to Oct.31.

Getty Images, damarelll / tiktok, EROTEME.CO.UK / BACKGRID

HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES

After mystery ‘tour illness,’ Harry is getting ready to conquer NYC

off, spending a bulk of his time in Italy — and finding love with his now-fiancée, actress Zoë Kravitz, who has been seen dancing in the crowds at his latest shows.

In 2024, Styles rented a house in Italy.

“The idea of taking time out felt insane,” he admitted to the UK Sunday Times in February. “I didn’t know if I could do it.

“I remember going to a café and sitting and having a coffee and thinking, ‘I don’t remember the last time I sat down and had a coffee — if I’ve ever sat down and had a coffee,’ ” he continued. “I was suddenly learning, through my friends, that eating a meal is more than just refueling.”

Styles further admitted there was a period when fame felt so isolating that he began turning down invitations and withdrawing from everyday life.

Getting ‘existential’

Appearing on the May cover of Runner’s World, he explained that running has become a form of personal therapy and a “conversation with myself” amid the pressures of stardom.

RING IT ON: Styles is reportedly engaged to Zoe Kravitz, who lives in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

“Over the years, I had to say no to everything I was invited to, whether it was a friend’s birthday, a trip somewhere amazing, an opening,” he said. “Something I’ve often struggled with, in the middle of a tour, is feeling like I’m not sure what I’m giving, not sure what I’m adding to the world.”

Ironically, fame only intensified that feeling — creating a sort of one-way street.

“Especially when the reward system and the kind of . . . adulation that you can receive feels so loud. Like clearly I’m getting so much from this, I’m getting all this energy. People are giving me so much, which I deeply appreciate,” he said. “But what am I contributing? At times I felt quite existential about that.”

On Aug. 26, Styles will kick off his residency at MSG, supported by Jamie xx.

Sources expect him to be in top condition, as he’ll have a strong base while staying at Kravitz’s home in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

When Styles hosted “Saturday Night Live” in March, Page Six reported that he was spotted walking and running over the Williamsburg Bridge from Brooklyn to Manhattan and up to the famed NBC studios at 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Staying with Kravitz will allow him be more “settled,” another music source said.

Next stage

While little is known about his plans for marriage with Krativz, both absolutely want kids, Page Six was told.

His longtime manager Jeffrey Azoff — whose 2021 wedding Styles attended with then-girlfriend Olivia Wilde — has recently become a dad.

Styles’ sister, Gemma, had a daughter in 2024.

“Catwoman” star Kravitz recently told British Vogue about her plans for motherhood, saying, “You just kind of have to be realistic. If I want to do something well, I have to focus on it. Knowing myself, I’m not going to have a kid and direct movies at exactly the same time . . . You just have to decide where you want your energy to be.”

Sources said Styles, who ends his tour in Australia in December, is happiest on stage.

“He’s going to be an artist for the rest of his life,” said the friend.

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OPINIONS & IDEAS

POSTSCRIPT

Did Dracula come to America? P. 42-43

THIEVING THIRD WORLDISM

New York's mild doctrinaire mayor is now convinced he's a king

Mayor Mamdani's pledge to arrest Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was never going to happen, but it served to energize efforts by Third Worldists who want to destroy the West.

X/@NYCMayor; Getty Images (2)

ZINEB RIBOUA

ZOHRAN MAMDANI spent 18 months promising New Yorkers that he would arrest a foreign head of government.

On Tuesday night, he admitted that he cannot.

But it is hard to believe Mamdani did not know all along the promise was legally untenable. He made it anyway because its real purpose was not enforcement but delegitimization — to put Israel and the US-led international order on the docket.

His administration reviewed every avenue available under applicable law and found no independent authority to enforce the International Criminal Court's warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The concession came by video, days after President Trump had already foreclosed the question. Trump said Netanyahu would not be arrested in the United States "in any way, shape, or form" and argued that the men who led Iran into its present catastrophe are the ones who belong in custody.

The episode exposes more than a failed political promise. It reveals the worldview beneath Mamdani's anti-Israel campaign: Third Worldism.

Emerging in the late 1950s, Third Worldism argues that poverty across Asia, Africa and Latin America resulted primarily from an international order dominated by the industrialized West, not from the domestic policies or institutions of developing states.

Beyond weakening the West, Third Worldism elevates terrorist organizations into liberation movements — forces for good precisely because they defy the US-led global order.

Israel occupies a central place within this worldview. The Jewish state is portrayed as a settler-colonial project sustained by American power, making the conflict a struggle between colonizer and colonized. Under that logic, Israel's legitimacy is the primary target.

By the late 1990s — and decisively after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 — Third Worldist regimes and revolutionary movements had lost much of their military and diplomatic momentum. International institutions then assumed greater importance to the Third Worldists. The UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the tribunals in The Hague and the advocacy networks surrounding them provided new instruments for advancing the same political objectives through legal means. Israel has accumulated more condemnations at the Human Rights Council than the rest of the world's states combined.

The irony is that the ideology behind the promise no longer reflects the foreign policy of many of the governments Mamdani claims to champion.

India illustrates the transformation. Once a leading architect of the Non-Aligned Movement and Third World solidarity, India now counts Israel among its closest strategic partners in defense, intelligence, agriculture, cybersecurity and advanced technology. Cooperation rests on national interest, not revolutionary ideology.

The same evolution has occurred across much of the Middle East. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalized relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords. Morocco followed in 2020 and expanded cooperation in defense, intelligence, agriculture and water technology. These governments concluded that technological cooperation, economic integration and security partnerships serve their populations more effectively than permanent ideological confrontation with the West.

The shift extends beyond relations with Israel. Across the region, governments have increasingly suppressed armed organizations without state authority and prioritized sovereignty.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio (inset) has confronted the International Criminal Court. He has sanctioned ICC judges and prosecutors and blocked their US assets. Mamdani's mad campaign demonstrates why Rubio's efforts deserve support.

International legal claims increasingly migrate into American politics through advocacy organizations, universities, municipal governments and elected officials.

More importantly, Rubio's ICC concern extends beyond the Netanyahu warrant itself.

First, the ICC asserts jurisdiction even over nationals of countries that declined to join it — the United States among them. That means the court believes it has authority over Americans and their allies absent any constitutional consent. This principle could be used to arrest American leaders when they visit other countries.

Second, the warrant establishes a standard for judging democratic governments at war against rules that override their own institutions. Israel maintains military courts, legal advisers and a Supreme Court. A tribunal that finds those insufficient will reach the same verdict on American ones. No doubt all this could be used to arrest Trump, Rubio, or any other prominent leader in the future.

Third, the court requires no American recognition to shape American politics. Advocacy networks, pension funds and city governments adopt its judgments as binding and voluntary enforcement delivers the authority that formal jurisdiction withholds.

Mamdani lost the legal argument, but nothing in the political project depended on winning it. He rendered a supranational claim as a domestic obligation.

Rubio warned this month that the ICC's claws could reach Americans through their own politics. Mamdani proved him right within the week.

Zineb Riboua is a research fellow at the Hudson Institute.

UP IN SMOKE

New York state officials are finally realizing how dopey it was to legalize weed

As governor, Andrew Cuomo resisted the push for recreational marijuana before giving in. But the policies have not gone as planned.

Helayne Seidman for the NY Post, Getty Images

NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY

WE are at an "I-told-you-so moment." That's what New York state Conservative Party Chairman Gerard Kassar told The Post last week in response to the new guide, "Talking With Young People About Weed." Kassar couldn't be more right. State officials, apparently, have finally realized the negative consequences of their decision to legalize cannabis for recreational use five years ago.

Emergency-room visits have skyrocketed, as have pediatric poisonings. Hospital visits involving cannabis and children under age 5 rose more than 1,600% since 2016.

"Anyone who uses cannabis frequently over time is at risk for developing Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome," the guide warns, which includes "severe abdominal pain, persistent nausea, and repeated vomiting." And those are just the temporary effects. Cannabis Use Disorder has been linked to higher rates of psychosis, suicidal ideation, panic attacks and other mood disorders, particularly among teens and young adults. This is even more of a problem because many teens have gotten the idea cannabis will help them with mental-health challenges and start self-medicating for depression and anxiety. The result is often an increase in those problems.

Using weed has resulted in underperformance in school and behavior problems, not surprisingly. In the immediate aftermath of legalization in New York, incidents involving illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol and unauthorized use of possession of controlled substances or prescription medications increased 17% in the 2022-2023 school year compared to the year before. A recent Wall Street Journal article reported that DeWitt Clinton HS in The Bronx "has limited the kind of food students are allowed to bring because teens were smuggling THC edibles in with their lunch and snacks."

How did we get here? It is worth understanding how warnings about these problems went unheeded. In 2017, Gov. Andrew Cuomo resisted pressure to approve recreational marijuana. At the time, he said, "It's a gateway drug, and marijuana leads to other drugs and there's a lot of proof that that's true." He acknowledged, "There's two sides to the argument. But I, as of this date, I am unconvinced on recreational marijuana."

Like many parents and policymakers, Cuomo was focused on the idea that marijuana was harmless but that it could lead to other drugs that were harmful. As it turned out, the cannabis that is sold today is much more powerful than anything Cuomo and his friends might have smoked in high school. The problem is not just the other drugs weed might lead you to. It's the actual weed.

But Cuomo and the other leaders opposed to recreational pot started to crack under pressure. Among other things, Big Cannabis started spending a lot of money lobbying governments. And New York's politicians also got greedy about the tax dollars they could get from legalizing weed. In 2020, Cuomo announced that we needed more research. "The federal government failed Americans with opioids, and we cannot allow that to happen with cannabinoids," Cuomo said in the State of the State address. "There is a dearth of independent research on the science, the safety risks, and the dangers/benefits associated with its potential use."

As it turns out, there was plenty of research at the time. But even if the research wasn't clear, why would the answer be to go ahead and legalize? And yet a year later, the governor was convinced.

Of course, he didn't actually say that. Instead, what he said when he signed the legislation was, "This is a historic day in New York — one that rights the wrongs of the past by putting an end to harsh prison sentences, embraces an industry that will grow the Empire State's economy, and prioritizes marginalized communities so those that have suffered the most will be the first to reap the benefits."

In other words, the goalpost moved from "cannabis is not safe" to "we don't know whether cannabis is safe" to "we don't care whether cannabis is safe because we are pursuing some misguided policy to right past wrongs."

It hasn't done that either. A recent meta-analysis found that "cannabis use among African Americans/Black individuals is linked to other drug use . . . showing heavy rates of cannabis and tobacco co-use and cannabis and alcohol co-use relative to other racial/ethnic groups." Another study found the places with the highest concentration of dispensaries in New York City "tend to be urban areas with clusters of Black and Hispanic residents." In other words, legalization is having a disproportionately negative impact on the people it was intended to help.

Legalization has turned into a disaster for young people in New York, who are being hospitalized for accidental and intentional ingestion. They are suffering academically and experiencing a lack of motivation to work. Even The New York Times editorialized a few months ago that legalization has not lived up to its advocates' promises and that America "has a marijuana problem." One hopes that New York officials will reverse course. In the meantime, all we can say is: Told you so.

Naomi Schaefer Riley is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Chatter

'My administration has reviewed every avenue available . . . It's clear we do not have the independent legal authority.'

— Mayor Mamdani backs off a vow to arrest Benjamin Netanyahu

'It requires my generation of politicians to raise our game and rise to the new challenge.'

— new UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham on replacing Keir Starmer

'I just want one ticket to 70 mm . . . please. I'm calling on Zeus himself.'

— Redditor pleads for a sold-out ticket to see "The Odyssey"

'Every time Iran kills an American Soldier they will pay for that killing many times over!'

— President Trump after the deaths of four service members

Not Made in China

The Red Dragon is facing a birthrate crisis. Will Xi Jinping start growing babies in machines?

Getyy Images (2)

GORDON CHANG

CHINA reports its current population is 1.42 billion. Yi Fuxian, a University of Wisconsin-Madison academic who studies Chinese demography, believes that number is far too high. He's right. Nonetheless, China is at least four times more populous than the United States. But the great disparity will not last. China is on the brink of a demographic cliff.

By the turn of the century, the US might even have more people than China. Yi believes that country could have as few as 330 million people when the clock strikes 2100. Then, America, according to the US Census Bureau, will have 366 million.

China is now heading to history's greatest drop in population in the absence of war. "Left unaddressed, China's demographic trap could precipitate a civilizational collapse," Yi warns Beijing.

The sheer size of China awes foreigners — and instills great pride in its people. "What is the real fulcrum of China's strength?" asked a popular Chinese website in 2009. There was a one-word answer: "Population!"

And as the anonymous "Fang Feng" posted on the Strong Country Forum of the Communist Party's People's Daily when China's population was still growing, "More people means more power."

Fewer people, then, means less power.

China's leaders have been trying just about everything to stabilize the falling population. The effort dates back to before the country peaked, according to official reporting, in 2021.

So far, nothing has worked. As Wang Feng of the University of California, Irvine points out, "No country has successfully raised fertility with government policies."

As demographics expert Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute said, "It is possible to use bayonets and police power to force birth rates down against the will of a people; it is very much more difficult to use state force to push birth rates up."

The Chinese government, however, has a solution: growing babies in machines "Matrix"-style, as Zhao DaShuai, a self-described propagandist for the Chinese military, suggested in 2023. "Sooner or later, reproduction will be an industrialized process, it's the only way to maintain a healthy birthrate," she wrote.

If the country cannot maintain that birthrate, the alternative is precipitous decline. As Yi argues, such decline will affect China's relations with all other countries. Its demographic failure, he told The Post this month, will lead to "a fundamental reassessment of China's trajectory, US-China relations, and broader global economic and geopolitical trends."

Fortunately, as China's population shrinks fast the nation could become benign. Charles Burton of the Sinopsis think tank says that "China's aging population will tend to slow growth, and slow growth will intensify domestic pressures and push the regime to prioritize stability through increased surveillance, security spending, and propaganda."

Peaceful post-war Japan is perhaps the best example of how falling population affects geopolitical ambition. Yet as Eberstadt explains, history offers examples to the contrary: Some graying societies, such as Germany in the 1930s and Serbia in the 1990s, were violent and aggressive.

Add China to the list of the likely violent. There is a link between a high number of unmarriable males — so-called bare branches — and a nation's adoption of risk-taking foreign policies. "The security logic of high-sex-ratio cultures predisposes nations to see some utility in interstate conflict," argue Valerie Hudson and Andrea den Boer in their much-discussed "Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia's Surplus Male Population."

China's one-child policy resulted in some of the planet's most skewed sex ratios as couples wanted their only child to be male to continue bloodlines. The result was tens of millions of excess men. Chinese leaders throughout millennia have seen the benefit of directing the destructive energies of young males at foreigners, instead of letting them mill around the country disrupting Chinese society.

Moreover, Xi Jinping may see a closing window to achieve his grand ambitions — he has been pushing the imperial-era belief that Chinese emperors had an obligation to rule tianxia or "all under Heaven" — and so may be impelled to act sooner rather than later to fulfill his goals.

After all, intimidation is the core of Xi's diplomacy. "No one is going to bow down to a country quickly transitioning from giant to midget," according to Blaine Holt, a China analyst and retired US Air Force general. "Xi, if he is to achieve his ambitions, has to act fast or not at all."

Expect Xi to act fast: He must know by now his China has no answer for population collapse.

Chinese President Xi Jinping (above) is likely to act fast to boost his nation's population, as the one-child policy and other woes led to an excess of men who will never have kids.

Gordon G. Chang is the author of "Plan Red: China's Project to Destroy America" and "The Coming Collapse of China." Follow him on X @GordonGChang.

STUDENT MOAN$

Share of US adults who say colleges are affordable:

12%

Source: Gallup

'I am floored with how many Russian lies I fell for.'

— Laura Loomer on her change of heart after visiting Kiev

'The environment has become very volatile.'

— Secret Service Director Sean Curran, saying the agency has probed 10,000 threats so far this year

'Nothing is more insulting to hardworking New Yorkers than Albany politicians who think they know it all.'

— EPA head Lee Zeldin as Gov. Hochul pushes solar farms

DWINDLING AID

US foreign aid by fiscal year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30):

Fiscal year	Aid
2023	$85B
2024	$63B
2025	$47B
2026 (so far)	$7B

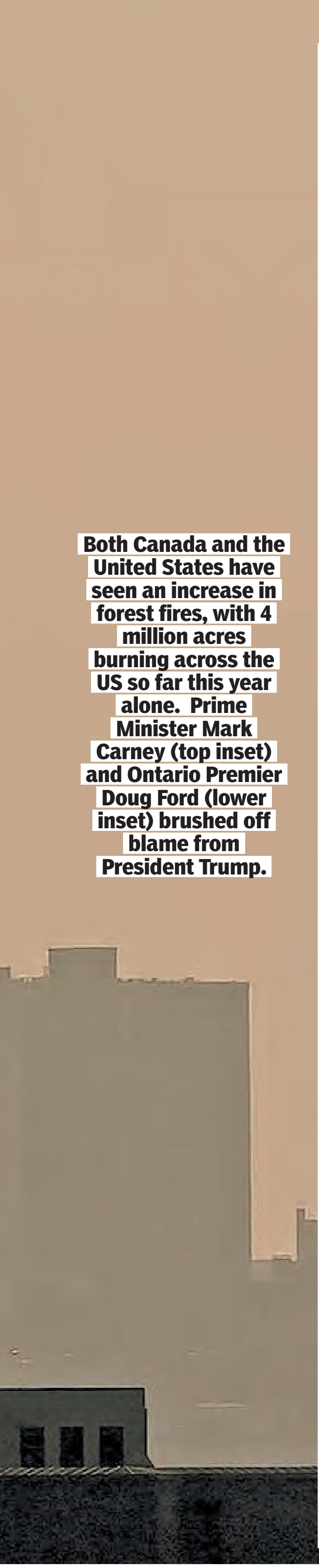
Source: Pew

WHAT THE HAZES?

The skies over NYC were again hazed with dangerous wildfire smoke last week (pictured) as a result of blazes in Canada. Oregon (left) and other US states are also fighting fires spreading in part from lack of forest management, such as controlled burns and thinning.

Luiz C. Ribeiro for NY Post; Oregon Department of Forestry, Getty Images (2)

Americans have to choke on Canadian wildfire smoke because our neighbors refuse to do proper forest management



Both Canada and the United States have seen an increase in forest fires, with 4 million acres burning across the US so far this year alone. Prime Minister Mark Carney (top inset) and Ontario Premier Doug Ford (lower inset) brushed off blame from President Trump.

SHAWN REGAN

FOR the third time in the past four years, Americans are choking on smoke from Canada's burning forests. Last week, roughly 900 wildfires turned the skies over Minneapolis, Chicago and New York into an apocalyptic haze. Air quality in parts of the Midwest ranked among the worst on the planet. More than 100 million people were under health alerts.

Why does this keep happening?

The smoke got President Trump's attention. In a Friday post on Truth Social, Trump accused Canada of "Willful Negligence" and vowed to hold the country responsible for "not properly maintaining" its forests.

"The United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable!" he wrote, threatening to add the cost of the pollution to tariffs Canada already pays.

Three days later, the White House announced 50% tariffs on nearly $20 billion of Canadian imports. The administration cited longstanding trade disputes, though the timing amplified tensions over the smoke.

Canada isn't the only one with a wildfire problem. America's forests are burning too. Fires are raging in northern Minnesota and across much of the western United States. Nearly 4 million acres have already burned nationwide this year, well above average for this point in the season. Over the weekend, smoke from fires in Washington and Oregon blanketed parts of British Columbia.

The response north of the border was predictable. Ontario Premier Doug Ford told the president to quit complaining and send help. Prime Minister Mark Carney fell back on a familiar defense: "Climate change is everyone's responsibility," he said, "including the United States."

The climate argument is well-worn. Canada's forests, the argument goes, are simply too vast and too remote to manage. Its dense stands of black spruce and jack pine evolved to burn in intense fires that destroy the main canopy and reset ecosystems. Once flames reach the treetops, a "crown fire" can race across the canopy too hot and fast for firefighters to attack directly.

There's some truth to that. Fire seasons have lasted longer in recent years. But neither Canada nor the United States is condemned to a future of smoke-choked skies. Policy choices shape how large and destructive fires become. Both governments have underinvested in prevention while restricting the tools that reduce fire risk. Now Canadians and Americans alike are paying the price.

And it's a steep price. Wildfire smoke carries fine particulate matter small enough to lodge deep in the lungs and enter the bloodstream. It aggravates asthma and raises the risk of heart attacks and strokes. A 2025 Nature study estimated that smoke from Canada's record 2023 fires contributed to thousands of deaths in the United States.

THOSE fires also released roughly 640 million metric tons of carbon. That's more than the annual emissions of all but three countries. If the fires were a country, they'd have ranked as the world's fourth-largest carbon emitter. This year is on track for more of the same.

Fortunately, Canada and the United States have tools to reduce the danger. The media and politicians are quick to blame climate change, but the reality is that forest management works. Fuel treatments such as thinning, brush clearance and prescribed burning remove small trees, brush and dead material that allow flames to climb into the canopy and explode into a dangerous crown fire.

The evidence in western US forests is hard to dismiss. A 2024 Forest Service meta-analysis found that thinning followed by prescribed fire reduced the severity of later wildfires by 72% on average. Prescribed fire alone, or thinning followed by pile burning, reduced it by 62%.

Canada's boreal forest poses a harder problem.

But even there, well-designed treatments can change a fire's behavior. During Saskatchewan's 2014 Lagoon Fire, a high-intensity crown fire dropped to the ground after reaching an area that had been thinned and pruned. Crews stopped the fire after it advanced about 400 feet into the treatment. In an Alaska experiment, another crown fire became a surface fire within about 100 feet of entering a treated zone.

Such treatments can save entire communities. The Westbank First Nation in British Columbia has long used thinning and controlled burning. The practices helped it escape major damage when flames approached during a 2021 fire.

Despite all this, Canada does strikingly little of this work. During Canada's 2023 fire season, The New York Times reported that the country's capacity to prevent wildfires had been "shrinking for decades," turning some forests into "a tinderbox." Canada conducts only "a handful of controlled burns" each year, the Times found.

"We don't do anywhere near enough prescribed burning in [British Columbia]," Robert Gray, a Canadian wildland fire ecologist, told CNN that summer, noting that New Jersey does more controlled burns than the entire province. A new Canadian Senate report states that only about 17,000 acres nationwide were treated with prescribed burning in 2023 — an area barely larger than Manhattan, in a country with 10% of the world's forests.

The problem is that Canada has regulated the cure nearly out of existence. "Essentially, you've handcuffed folks — foresters and silviculturists — from being able to get off successful prescribed burns because we made the rules so onerous and so restrictive," Sarah Bros, an Ontario forester who has done controlled burning, told the Times.

Why has Canada let this tool wither? Its wildfire agencies were built to put fires out, not use them to manage forests. The result is a series of practical barriers: too few trained crews, steep liability risks and air-quality rules that restrict controlled burns due to smoke concerns — even though such burns produce far less total smoke than the megafires they help prevent.

This doesn't mean Canada can manage its forests to prevent every large fire. But smarter targeting is needed: treating areas near towns, power lines and evacuation routes, plus adding strategic fuel breaks in remote areas.

American forest management is snarled by many of the same problems. Prescribed burning is common in the southeast but is badly underused across western states, where permitting, environmental review and litigation frequently stall the work. A recent study found it takes an average of five to seven years to implement major fuel treatment projects due to excessive litigation and federal red tape.

BOTH countries also struggle with firefighting coordination. The Canadian Senate report found that no single authority is responsible for national wildfire preparedness and response. Fire management is split among 10 provinces and three territories, with Ottawa providing money and emergency support. The report recommended creating a federal coordinating office for wildfires. Washington has begun moving in that direction by unifying the Interior Department's fire programs under the new US Wildland Fire Service.

Faster detection could help, too. Lightning strikes account for more than 80% of the area burned in Canadian wildfires. Better lightning mapping and pre-positioned crews could catch more remote fires while they are still small. British Columbia is spending up to C$1 million to test a Vancouver startup's claim that it can reduce cloud-to-ground lightning in high-risk storms. The technology is unproven, but a closely monitored field trial is a reasonable way to find out.

Washington has its own work to do. The bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act would speed fuel-reduction work in high-risk areas. It passed the House last year but still awaits a floor vote in the Senate.

Two related bills, the FIRE Act and the FENCES Act, would also help. The Clean Air Act can penalize states for the smoke from prescribed burns or from foreign sources, including Canadian blazes. The FIRE and FENCES acts would fix this. Both passed the House this spring but are stalled in the Senate.

Canada and the United States cannot stop every wildfire, but they can keep more fires from growing into disasters that choke cities hundreds of miles away. The fires will return. Both countries should give them less to burn.

Shawn Regan is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Self-Deportation Is Key

Reversing the massive Biden inflow of illegal migrants remains a work in progress, but a necessary one — with getting as many as possible to leave voluntarily quite vital.

President Trump stopped the wave cold in his first days in office, putting the lie to Democrats' claims that the border *couldn't* be secured without new laws, and it remains stopped. But President Joe Biden waved in millions of "asylum seekers," and millions more jumped the border while border agents were tied up processing the influx.

Getting them all out, *without* dangerous and chaotic mass ICE raids, is hard work, made all the tougher by Democrats' continue d resistance to any enforcement at all. Which is why the feds need to push them to go home on their own.

Homeland Security reports that of the 3 million-plus illegals who left the country during Year 1 of Trump's second term, about 73% (some 2.2 million) self-deported. Part of that is the realization that staying forever won't be as it once seemed; another is new financial incentives.

DHS has issued more than 100,000 fines to illegals who have failed to comply with final removal orders. These fines clock in at $998 per day of overstay; the fines now total in the billions.On the other side of the equation, non-criminal self-deporters face no fines or asset confiscation and remain eligible for legal re-entry.

Team Trump lets would-be self-deporters use the CBP Home app to arrange their departure; it's a wonderful repurpose of the insane Biden-era CBP One app that let would-be illegal migrants schedule their border jumps.

Sending in federal agents to go toe to toe with antifa thugs and blue-city progs, however merited, has not proven an effective means of making that happen. Setting aside tragedies like the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, encouraged to interfere with legitimate law-enforcement operations, the political risks are vast.

The street battles in Minneapolis are, justly or not, a main reason why support for ICE has cratered in recent polling, even as support for getting most of the Biden wave gone remains high.

Nor will blue-state and -city electeds pay any price from their voters for resisting ICE, no matter how deeply unjust it is to both US citizens and *legal* immigrants.

Focusing on quieter administrative levers to encourage deportation is not only smart — it's massively effective. Plus: Even as ICE draws back from more confrontational tactics, its overall arrest numbers are up.

The administration has posted other quiet wins beyond the civil-fine initiative, for example killing a Biden rule that stopped many types of welfare assistance from counting as making a migrant a "public charge" and so ineligible for legalization.

All these issues need rethinking when the nation finally starts to settle on a rational new approach to immigration. Biden waved in far too many migrants by ignoring the spirit of the laws; humanely sending the overwhelming majority of them home is absolutely necessary to getting the nation to where it can finally agree on new laws to admit the immigrants America needs in an orderly and sustainable way.

Tish Winks at CAIR's Games

State Attorney General Letitia James hammers conservative outfits over paperwork errors, but sure is kind she when the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a political ally, flouts state charity *and* elections law.

CAIR and related entity CAIR Action jumped into New York Democratic primaries in June to endorse and fundraise for a host of antizionist candidates, including the victorious Darieliza Avila Chevalier, Brad Lander and Claire Valdez.

Setting aside CAIR's links to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, this would be normal political activity — except that CAIR Action NY, though registered federally as a 501(c)(4), never registered with the New York Charities Bureau, as required for any entity soliciting funds in New York state.

A new report from the Intelligent Advocacy Network details scrupulously how CAIR Action — though barred from soliciting in California and fined for unlicensed solicitation in DC — ignored New York law. Yet AG James, whose core duties include enforcing these laws, has had nothing to say on the matter.

Hmm: Her office routinely celebrates the work of CAIR, takes action against groups investigating CAIR and even forces pro-Israel groups that annoy CAIR out of business.

James has been a stickler when it comes to the jots and tittles of the filings of conservatives, for example striving to shut down the small anti-immigration website VDare, which hasn't operated in New York for years, over supposed "misappropriation" of funds for outlays that donors were well aware of. Not to mention her prosecutorial jihad against Donald Trump and the privately held Trump Organization over obscure filings in a Deutsche Bank loan that was repaid in full.

For all James' oaths to uphold the laws, her approach to these issues is pure politics. If you're an enemy, watch out. But if you're an ally — even one linked to global terror — you can get away with anything.

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By DANIEL DI MARTINO and STU SMITH

THE State Department published a damning report documenting the Cuban communist regime's nefarious activities in America. Among the revelations: Cuba has been training over 10,000 American left-wing activists and funding dissent in this country. They have the ability to organize disruptive demonstrations at most military bases and immigration facilities at a day's notice.

The timing is eerie. Just this Tuesday, yet another anti-ICE terror attack occurred in Manhattan when a former US army soldier set gasoline on fire in front of the agency's New York field office. This pyromaniac isn't officially linked to Cuba, but his violent left-wing attack is precisely the type of thing Cuba is incubating in America.

For decades, trips to Cuba have served as a rite of passage for some of America's most committed activists. Extremists drawn to revolutionary movements and radical causes visit the country to learn from the regime.

Early on, the Venceremos Brigade brought American students to the country to tap into its political groups. Some of its first visitors then used what they learned to lead the Weather Underground.

These and similar trips continue today and connect participants with more militant forms of activism.

The "Brigadista" Calla Walsh served as co-chair of the National Network on Cuba before she became a mouthpiece for the Iranian regime. She declared "Death to America" in Tehran last year.

Former Venceremos brigadier Karen Bass managed to get elected as mayor of the America's second largest city. She has advanced causes favorable to the Cuban regime such as calling to lift sanctions on the communist regime. When the Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro died, she mourned him as "Comandante en Jefe" — commander in chief.

The list goes on: Isra Hirsi, daughter of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), made a trip to Havana in March. She thanked the People's Forum for organizing the trip, despite concerns that the organization may be a Chinese Communist Party propaganda arm. People's Forum denies any wrongdoing.

Some Cuban operatives aren't as overtly revolutionary and work through more conventional political and professional channels, including nonprofit institutions and political organizations such as the Democratic Socialists of America.

Since 2019, the DSA has expanded its activism related to Cuba. The party has intensified this engagement during the second Trump administration.

The DSA sent 40 rank-and-file and governing members to Havana. They met with communist officials, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Cossío Domínguez.

The DSA also participated in the trip that sent Hirsi and far-left streamer Hasan Piker — who recently called Mao Zedong "one of the great leaders of this world" — to Cuba.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel (right) complains of a "more dangerous version of McCarthysm" even as Cuba funds far-left dissent in the United States.

Fortunately, the Trump administration has accelerated its efforts against the communist-influence network in America. A federal court is investigating far-left China-based billionaire Neville Roy Singham, a chief financier of the nonprofit network supporting communist activities.

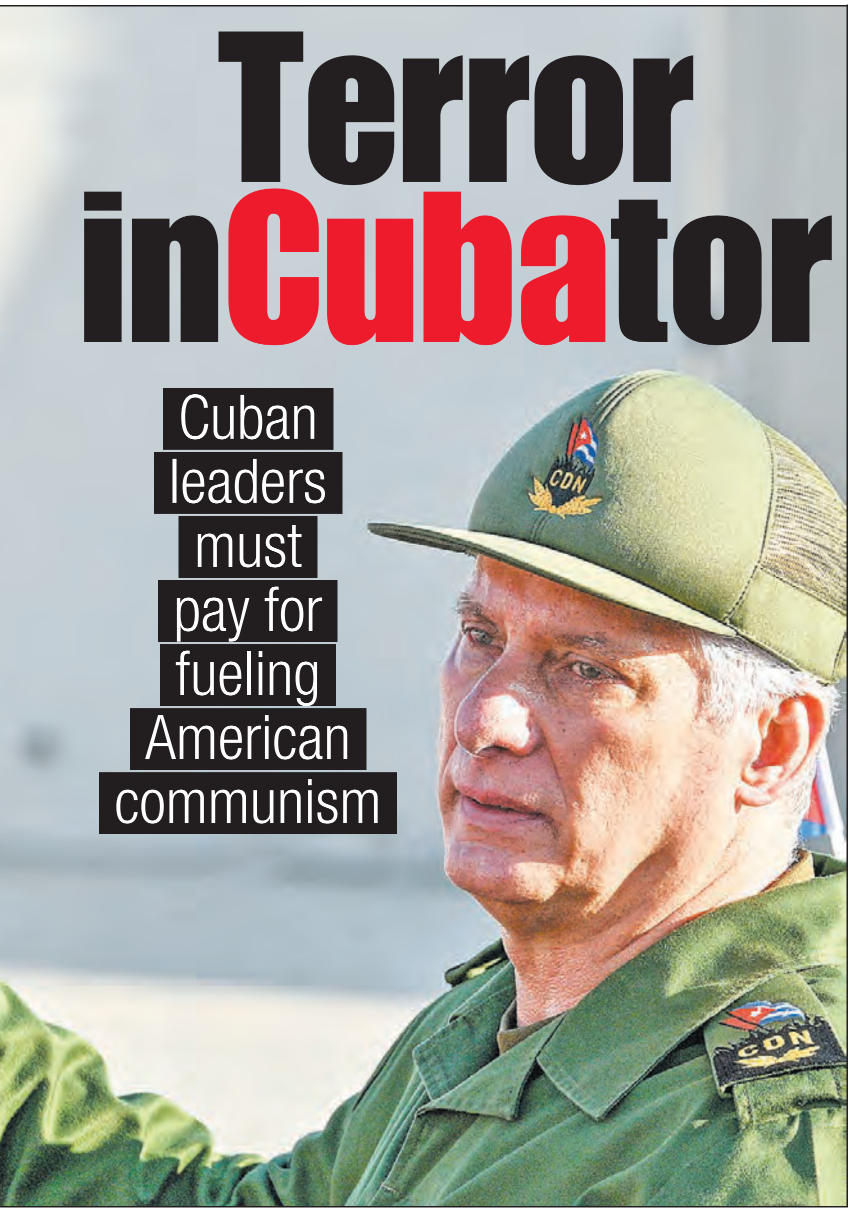
Besides the People's Forum, Singham is a major contributor to Code Pink. His wife, Jodie Evans, is the co-founder. Its leadership includes some of the country's most prominent pro-Cuba activists, including Medea Benjamin, Claudia De la Cruz and Vivien Lesnik Weisman. A grand jury is reportedly investigating whether Singham's activities may have violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act. (Singham has not been charged with wrongdoing, and he has denied acting on behalf of the Chinese government.)

The Justice Department is also seeking the extradition of another far-left financier, James "Fergie" Chambers, who is living in Spain. (He has denied any wrongdoing.)

But much more remains to dismantle

Terror inCubator

Cuban leaders must pay for fueling American communism



AFP via Getty Images

these operations and militant networks. A good place to start: The House Foreign Affairs Committee can subpoena every person and organization identified in the State Department's Cuba report. Their testimony would surely begin to expose these nefarious actors ahead of potential court proceedings. And it would show the American people the extent of Cuba's influence.

The Trump administration should also probe the nonprofit status of 501(c)3 groups such as the People's Forum, Code Pink, the ANSWER Coalition and even the DSA's own nonprofit arms such as the DSA Fund.

The DOJ and Treasury Department should enforce existing sanctions on Cuba, Venezuela and other far-left regimes to the greatest degree, punishing those who violate them by taking payment from those regimes or working for them.

Finally, to expose the influence of foreign tyrants, Congress should pass legislation to force every nonprofit group to disclose any large donation by a foreign national or from foreign-source funds.

It's easy for DSA members and fellow travelers to funnel money to anti-American causes. It's easy for Mayor Mamdani to remain silent when the DSA supports the Cuban regime. It's easy for Rep. Omar to blame America for Cuba's socialist collapse. It's easy for Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) to lie and praise Cuba's broken health system after meeting with the nation's dictator. But it's not easy to be a Cuban suffering from blackouts, lack of water and food shortages caused by socialism.

Earlier this week, Cuban tyrant Miguel Díaz-Canel said that "a new and more dangerous version of McCarthysm is back in the United States." Make no mistake, if the US government does not act, a wave of far-left terrorism will follow. We must not hold back our efforts to protect America's freedom and way of life from communism and socialism. Anti-communism is indeed back, and Cuba is next.

Daniel Di Martino (@DanielDiMartino) is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Stu Smith (@thestustustudio) is an investigative analyst at City Journal, a publication of the Manhattan Institute.

LETTERS

Respect the USA

Kudos to Bob Chavez, a Vietnam veteran who slapped a young man at a Chicago Cubs game for not standing for the national anthem ("Say can you stand," July 22).

The slap should have come from this young man's parents. Our national anthem is a sign of respect, which should be taught at home. Thankfully this dispute was settled amicably, without knives or guns, and this young man learned something.

Maria Musolino, Staten Island

Lefty propaganda

I was surprised to read the obvious MAGA hit-job article by Niall Ferguson and John-Clark Levin ("The algorithms of antisemitism," July 23).

They blamed only conservatives and far-right extremists for the current trend of rising antisemitism in this country. There was not a single mention of the charges of Palestinian genocide and war crimes against Israel by progressives and socialists or the general abandonment of support for Jews by mainstream Democratic leaders. What a one-sided piece of lefty propaganda.

Anthony Scro, Whitestone

Why split schools?

Part of the problem of New York City's public-school spending lies with the Bloomberg administration's "co-location" policies ("Addition & subtraction," July 20).

Mayor Bloomberg thought it would be beneficial to break up large schools, believing that students would get more individual attention and academic achievement would increase.

As a school nurse, I worked at two co-location sites. Classrooms had to be converted to offices and there was a net loss of valuable extracurriculars since no one small school could offer what the larger schools did. And academic achievement did not improve.

It's time to reconsolidate: one school in one building. The savings and benefits to students would be enormous.

Ilene Heller, Manhattan

Lock perps down

New York's parole system is a sick joke and repeat-offender Zaki Smith is glaring proof ("Fiendish Subway 'pusher' on parole," July 22).

This punk, who has 14 prior arrests, pushed a 70-year-old woman onto the subway tracks. The idiots in Albany who passed the no-bail laws should be fired for incompetence.

Gary Acerra, Staten Island

End the outbreak

City Council Speaker Julie Menin's piece about the Legionnaire's outbreak on the Upper East Side is comforting but alarming ("Zo's Outbreak Bungle," PostOpinion, July 22).

History shows us that public trust in politicians is an important weapon against epidemic diseases. The appalling news about insufficient professional staffing and the administration's seeming indifference is worrisome.

Mayor Mamdani, our once-vigilant public-health system must not be allowed to sleep in the face of ongoing challenges by harmful, infectious organisms in our daily world.

Robert April, Manhattan

Fetterman is right

Although I have major issues with Sen. John Fetterman voting with Republicans during the government shutdown, I have to agree with him on Mayor Mamdani ("Zo gets slammed for Bibi bust bid," July 20).

If Mamdani wants to set Middle Eastern policy, he should move to one of those nations that execute critics of the government, whip women who don't dress modestly or allow men to control their wives.

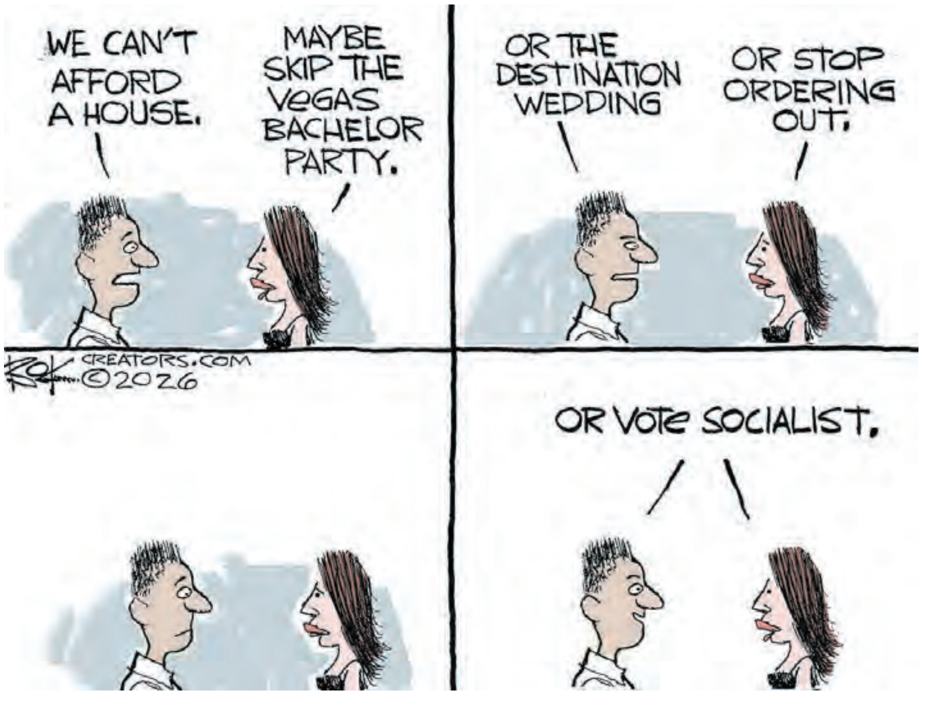
Edward Drossman, Manhattan

Post your comments on stories at **www.nypost.com**

E-mail letters@nypost.com,

or write to:
The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, NY 10036.

Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letter will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.


WE CAN'T AFFORD A HOUSE.
MAYBE SKIP THE VEGAS BACHELOR PARTY.
OR THE DESTINATION WEDDING
OR STOP ORDERING OUT.
KOK CREATORS.COM ©2026
OR VOTE SOCIALIST.

REQUIRED READING

By Hailey Eber

The Intrigue
Silvia Moreno-Garcia (Del Rey)
It's a sexy noir set in Mexico in the 1940s. A charming swindler targets lonely women, but when he sets his sights on a wealthy widow, her savvy niece wants in on the con.

The Intrigue
Silvia Moreno-Garcia

All That's Unseen: An Appalachian Memoir
Emilee Hackney (Penguin Press)
Hackney grew up in southwest Virginia, an eighth generation Appalachian. In high school, she started dating a boy who was heavily involved in a radically Pentecostal church. She planned to marry him and be a good, submissive wife, but, when she found out who he really was, she took a sharp turn. She applied to Harvard and was accepted.

All That's Unseen
Emilee Hackney

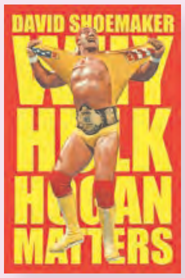
Yellow Pine: A Novel
Claire Vaye Watkins (Riverhead Books)
In the latest from the acclaimed author of "I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness," a divorced, recovering alcoholic returns to the Mojave desert where she grew up. There she connects with a former lover, decides she wants to have another kid and joins up with residents battling a data center being built in the area.

YELLOW PINE
CLAIRE VAYE WATKINS

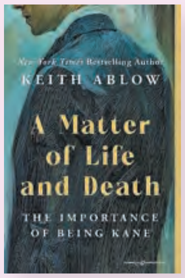
Tenderness: A Novel
Rowan Beaird (Flatiron Books)
At the wedding of a well-off couple on a Virginia island in the 1970s, intrigue swirls around the Ivy League bride, who was swept up in the Synanon cult for reasons unknown.

Tenderness
A Novel
Rowan Beaird

Why Hulk Hogan Matters
David Shoemaker (Harper)
The host of the "The Masked Man Show With Kaz" podcast examines the late wrestler's life and legacy.



A Matter of Life and Death: The Importance of Being Kane
Keith Russell Ablow (Speaking Volumes)
Hedge fund manager Alex Kane has made a mint in prediction markets, but his personal life is in shambles and he's considering suicide. Instead, he hires a movie director to help him stage an elaborate rebirth.


New York Times Bestselling Author
KEITH ABLOW
A Matter of Life and Death
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING KANE

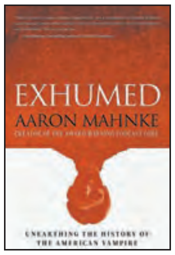
'Exhumed' unearths the history of vampires and death-defiers in America and abroad

By MAX GROSS

ALL among the living and undead know Count Dracula. But vampires have a long and more established pedigree than readers of Bram Stoker may recognize. These bloodsuckers have even made their ways to American shores.

In his new book, "Exhumed: Unearthing the History of the American Vampire" (Running Press), Aaron Mahnke starts with the "vampire panic" of Rhode Island in the 1890s — which appears to have inspired Stoker — before diving deep into the historic and folkloric past.

Mahnke takes us to backwaters across the globe. Among the most intriguing is the town of Kisiljevo, where more than 150 years before the American vampire panic there was a Serbian one. In this little village, nine people had died from a mysterious illness. "Anyone who studies history would view this sort of story as 'normal' for the early 18th century," Mahnke writes.



But the villagers added a twist: During their illness, each of the dead had sworn they were visited in their sleep by a man who tried to strangle them in their sleep: Peter Blagojevic. Weirder still, Blagojevic had died 10 weeks before the rash of deaths began.

The villagers of Kisiljevo took the only sensible action — they exhumed Blagojevic's corpse to make sure he was really and truly dead.

"Once dug up, they were shocked to see that the body had almost no signs of decay," Mahnke writes. "It didn't even smell, as a normal corpse should. Looking closer, the men could swear that Peter's nails and hair had grown, and blood could clear be seen around his mouth."

Their next step was logical enough: "The villagers responded by crafting a sharpened stake, which they pounded into the corpse's heart."

This is a little taste of the gruesome stories that Mahnke offers in "Exhumed."

The subtitle of "Exhumed" is a little misleading. Bloodsuckers are, indeed, a significant element in the book, and it does build toward a vampiric climax. But vampires — American or otherwise — are not really the central conceit. "Exhumed" is more about the crazy ways societies have looked at the dead and tried to reverse the effects of mortality.

Indeed, the real pleasure of "Exhumed" is found in its eccentric cast of characters who tried to defeat death. Consider, for example, the case of Luigi Galvani, the 18th-century physiologist who theorized that electrocution could revive patients suffering from death. He practiced on frogs.

Then there's the ancient Roman naturalist, Pliny the Elder, who believed that severed hand of a young, dead person could heal a patient with throat diseases and other maladies. This, we can assume, found as much success as the "skull powder" — no explanation necessary — used as an ingredient in Goddard's Drops, an extremely popular cure-all during the reign of King Charles II.

THERE are chapters premature burial, mummification and state execution. Fun fact: Standardized punishments written into Ancient Greek law came from a legislator named Draco. "Draco's code assigned the same punishment to every single crime imaginable: death." Hence, the word Draconian.

If some of the stories — and the general esprit de campfire — sound familiar, this might be because Mahnke is the creator, producer, writer and host of the wildly successful "Lore" podcast. "Lore" is similarly fixated on urban legends and true histories of the gruesome.

The 50-year-old Mahnke grew up in a small Midwestern town near Chicago. "It was a wonderful time to be a kid," he said. Particularly if one had the kind of interests that occupied Mahnke.

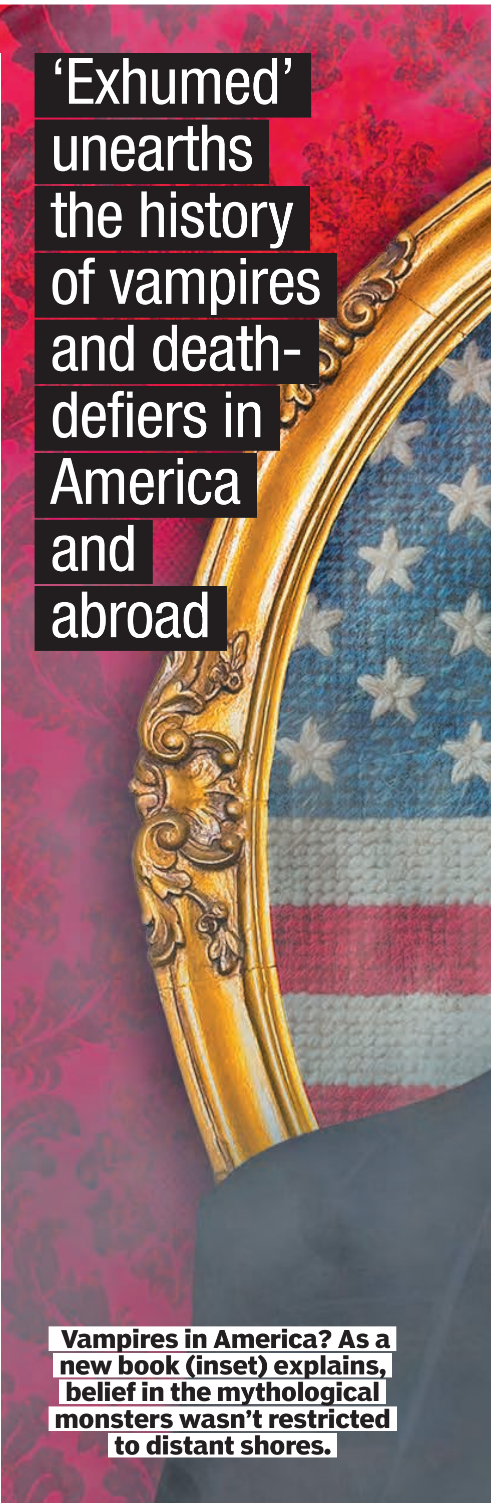
He grew up watching "Unsolved Mysteries" and "The X-Files." He showed an early mastery of the macabre. One year he wrote a Halloween story that "involved a family going to a local pumpkin patch — getting a pumpkin, coming home and finding human bones inside of the pumpkin."

Not bad for a fifth grader — or an adult horror writer, really.

"When you're a kid it's a lot easier to believe" in the occult, Mahnke told The Post. "As an adult . . . I'm skeptical. But there's a lot of joy in thinking it could be true."

True or not, the reactions to the mysterious and seemingly supernatural are fascinating.

"Exhumed" can read as a catalogue of inexplicable human behavior in the face of cold and misunderstood mortality, where the only viable answers come from the spirit world — or the quack-medicine world.



Vampires in America? As a new book (inset) explains, belief in the mythological monsters wasn't restricted to distant shores.

IN 1799, the father of our nation, George Washington, fell ill with a sore throat. While Washington waited for a proper doctor to arrive, Martha Washington turned to the manager of the family estate because he was trained in bloodletting — a practice that everybody in that age knew and largely accepted.

"If Hippocrates, Galen and generations of other medical experts said bloodletting worked, then by golly it did," Mahnke writes.

Indeed, when Washington's actual *doctor* — the guy who presumably had more expertise than

NY Post Design; Getty Images, Public Domain

NEW ENGLAND NOSFERATU

Forget ibuprofen — during the reign of King Charles II (left) in the mid-1600s, Goddard's Drops, which contained powdered human skulls, were the cure-all of choice. But a dead person could harm as well as help. After Mercy Brown (above) of Rhode Island died of tuberculosis, locals suspected she was a vampire feeding on her dying brother and burned her corpse.

the person in charge of roof repair and hedge trimming at Mount Vernon — showed up, the bloodletting continued. More doctors and experts hovered over the general until half of Washington's blood eventually drained from his body.

The first president of the United States didn't make it — but while his cooling corpse lay on his deathbed, a final doctor arrived prescribing a different regimen: "rubbing him all over with towels to generate heat. Next, he would perform [a] tracheotomy . . . Oh, and one more thing: he wanted to replace all that lost blood with a transfusion."

AMERICA'S docs continued to sway between the scientific and the absurd well into the next century. See: Mercy Brown, the Rhode Island vampire. She died at age 19 of tuberculosis after several other members of her household expired. Her brother lay perilously close to death. Months after Mercy's departure, some locals began to worry that the deaths had a more mysterious explanation. They demanded to see the corpses of the dead family members to make sure nothing fishy was going on.

Mercy's dead sister and mother were properly decomposed. But, as with Blagojevic, Mercy was too perfectly preserved for the locals' judgment. It had to be paranormal.

Mercy had died in January when the ground was too frozen to dig up. She had therefore been stored inside a stone outbuilding in the freezing cold. It did not occur to the villagers that this rudimentary refrigeration could have stalled her body's decay.

No, the locals concluded that she was undead. They burned her heart and liver, turned the ashes into a powder and gifted the powder to her dying brother with the instruction to consume it as a cure. He died two months later.

"Exhumed" borrows a lot of material that Mahnke features in his podcast, and that's largely what gives the book its breezy, conversational tone — corny throwaway lines and all. The words "pun intended" and "put not intended" appear quite a bit in this volume — but it's difficult to get annoyed. It's part of the banter of a good podcaster.

After many detours and scenic routes, the narrative ends where it began, with the vampires of Rhode Island. But it would be wrong to reveal too many of the jewels Mahnke buries in the text. (Pun intended.) He follows the thinking of his subjects as they grapple with what had, until relatively recently, been the mysteries of microbiology, mortality and more.

"I was amazed at how close people in the past could get to the truth," Mahnke said. "It was like people in the dark getting their hands to the door."

BREAK-ING FREE

A Harvard Biz School researcher says taking a sabbatical can actually be a great career move

Taking an extended break from work can allow even the most ambitious person to rethink what they want out of life, author DJ DiDonna argues.

Adobe Stock

By SHIVANI VORA

IN 2016, DJ DiDonna was, by all accounts, riding high.

The fintech company he co-founded, EFL Global, was growing at a fast clip. He had given a speech at the United Nations about how to empower entrepreneurs through access to finance, and the startup had landed a feature in The New York Times.

Then came his father's 70th birthday celebration that August at his parents' home in Gilford, NH. As the family sat outdoors enjoying a backyard barbecue, DiDonna got a call summoning him to South Africa for work. He rushed away from the party and flew out that night.

"The company had gotten my time and attention, while my family got the short shrift," DiDonna, now 43, writes in his new book, "Big Time Off: The Transformative Power of Sabbaticals and How to Take One" (Simon Acumen). "My personal life was in shambles."

Like many ambitious people, DiDonna had never given a sabbatical much thought, but having to go to South Africa forced him to reevaluate his life and his priorities. While on the plane home from Johannesburg, he came up with a plan for a five-month hiatus.

He talked it over with his co-founder, Bailey Klinger, who was on board with it, though DiDonna says he himself felt a "sense of guilt."

Still he proceeded. From January to May 2017, he stopped working and traveled to New Zealand with friends, walked 900 miles across Japan on a Buddhist pilgrimage and cared for his mother as she recovered from a serious illness.

He also tackled more mundane tasks like remodeling his kitchen and learning how to cut tiles with his dad.

The whole experience was "transformational," he said. The time off was key in helping him realize that he didn't want to return to his former life. It also left him wanting to learn more about the phenomenon of sabbaticals.

DiDonna ended up heading to his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, to run a domestic policy research lab. In January 2019, he established The Sabbatical Project, a research initiative and online community advocating for sabbaticals. It now has a mailing listing of some 10,000 people and has collected stories from 100 successful sabbatical takers.

Currently a researcher and senior lecturer in business administration at Harvard Business School, DiDonna is passionate about the benefits — both personal and professional — of sabbaticals.

An extended break — ideally three to six months — is an opportunity to "explore hobbies, dormant passions, spend time with family and friends, get out into nature, or work on a project that you've always sworn you would get to," he said. "While these activities might not seem directly related to productivity or our jobs, they are profoundly human outcomes that lead us to consider [if] we've lived a fulfilling life."

With his Ivy League pedigree and financial security, DiDonna was privileged to have the economic means to embark on a sabbatical. He acknowledges that the ability to take an extended leave from work is "financially and logistically difficult," but he also believes that "a sabbatical doesn't have to be an expensive, privileged, out-of-reach luxury.

"It can start with something relatively modest, like taking a summer off with your kids every five or 10 years," he said. "My research uncovered that people from all walks of life, from teachers to nonprofit employees and leaders, made a sabbatical a decade-long priority . . . They saved, they aligned their lives and that of their family, and made it a priority to become part of their life story."

He recommends planning ahead — up to two and three years in advance — talking with your employer and getting your finances in order. "You make a logistical plan around it the way you do around retirement," he said.

Besides his life story, DiDonna points to two people he profiles in "Big Time Off" whose stories illustrate how taking a professional pause can lead to profound change in both career and in life.

NPR journalist Aarti Shahani took a work-sanctioned sabbatical to write a memoir about her father's unjust detention and deportation after 9/11. The painful experience was the impetus for her to start a nonprofit helping immigrant families like hers. "It was extremely cathartic for her," DiDonna said, and "changed the trajectory of her life."

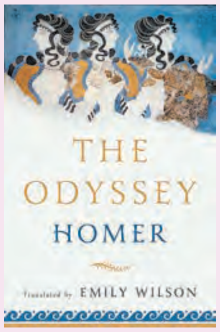
Another example is Renuka Sastri, a mother-of-two who had worked in digital strategy for more than two decades. After walking the Camino de Santiago with her daughter, and then getting unfairly passed over for a promotion, she began to rethink what she wanted from her career.

Sastri used her sabbatical to travel with her cousin, take pottery classes, and volunteer, which helped her tap into her interest of staying engaged in her community. "She applied for a job as a public servant in local government, where she still works today," DiDonna noted.

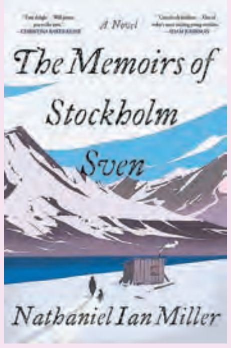
He closes "Big Time Off" with a hopeful reminder, writing, "The time of your life awaits."

BUZZ: Book Marks

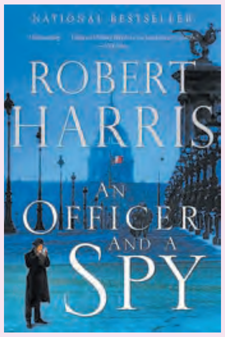
The Post regularly asks local libraries and bookstores about their top titles. This week, Jessica Kaplan, principal owner of Bronx River Books in Scarsdale, shares some of their most popular books.



The Odyssey
Homer, translated by Emily Wilson (W. W. Norton & Company)
"An amazing number of readers are buying the book to appreciate how Christopher Nolan's film brings to life — and changes — the 2,700 year-old epic story," Kaplan told The Post. "The Wilson translation [commended by Nolan] is the most popular; the Robert Fagles, Robert Fitzgerald and Daniel Mendelsohn translations are equally excellent."



The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven
Nathaniel Ian Miller (Little, Brown and Company)
"When a reclusive miner suffers a disfiguring injury, he retreats to a small fur trapping town to start a new life," Kaplan said. "Sven, our eponymous hero, forges unexpected friendships and creates a tight-knit family. Though set on Svalbard, a harsh Arctic island, this novel will warm your spirits."



An Officer and a Spy
Robert Harris (Vintage)
"This taut, brilliant historical thriller follows the French army officer, George Picquart, who exposed the anti-Semitic conspiracy to frame Alfred Dreyfus for treason. The facts are true; the thought processes and dialogue are invented," Kaplan said. "Harris is also the author of 'Conclave' — the basis for the riveting film."

— Hailey Eber

Celebrity Pics of the Week / TV / Horoscope / Puzzles

Sunday Break

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

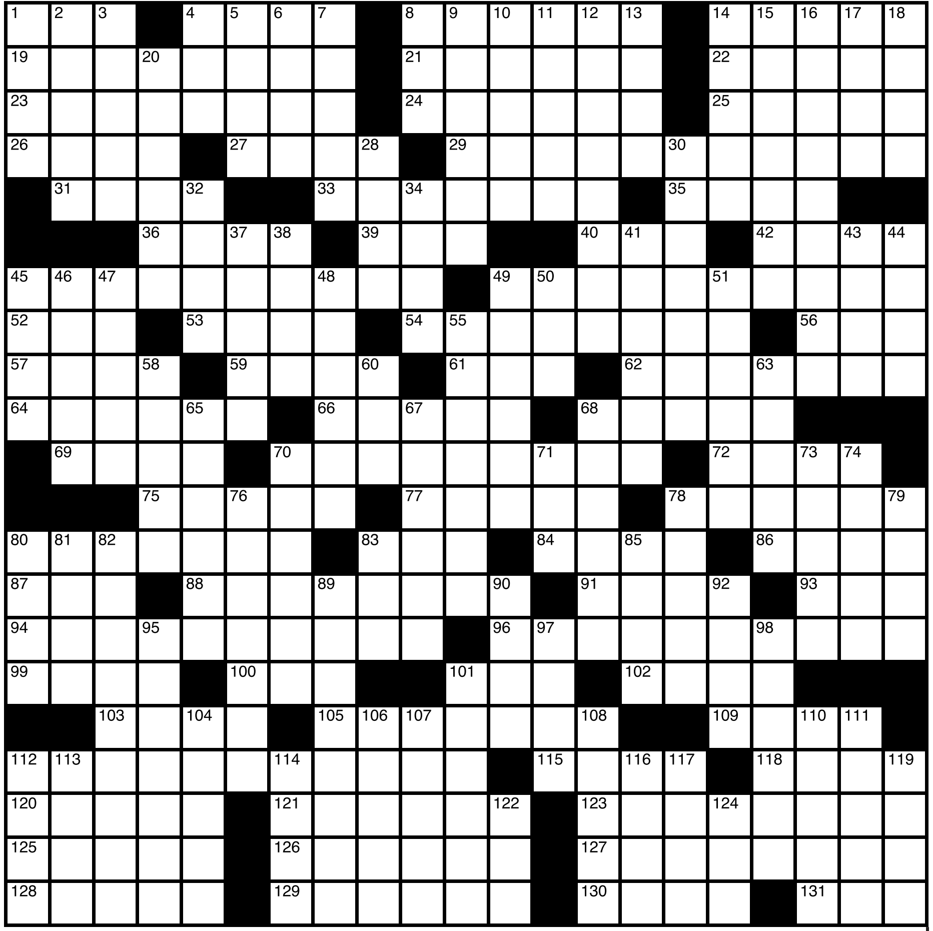
"9 TO 5" By Zhouqin Burnikel

Across

1 Do something
4 Career fair haul
8 Claim forcefully
14 Insert, as a link
19 Prepping period
21 Mammals with big calves
22 Stains with ash
23 *Command to turn
24 Winter cap feature
25 Jam
26 Clarifying phrase
27 Too sure of oneself
29 *Recovers somewhat
31 Coup target
33 Small camping shelter
35 Slowpoke's place
36 "Despacito" singer Fonsi
39 Part of LAPD
40 Nonprofit org. with a school for aspiring moviemakers
42 Infatuated
45 *Flourishing
49 *Perform a daring act
52 Dedicated poem
53 Tudyk of "Firefly"
54 Emulate Alysa Liu
56 Bark beetle target
57 Fancy-schmancy
59 Previously
61 Relaxed sigh
62 Novel at the center of Bloomsday celebrations
64 Westernmost city in Texas
66 McIntosh or Macintosh
68 Poison Ivy, to Robin
69 Seasoning for kimchi
70 *Makes explicitly clear
72 Insects in a colony
75 Apex predators of the sea
77 New York City's ___ Place
78 Baseless
80 Vidal of hair care
83 Vader's childhood nickname
84 Southernmost Ivy
86 Party leader?
87 Software-driven F/X
88 Improviser's concluding phrase
91 Fat-heavy diet
93 "Look what I found!"
94 *Person who works a lot?
96 *Ink-filled tool for illustrators
99 Org. running many missions
100 Snack for a frog
101 Of vital importance
102 Speak unclearly
103 Ione of "La Brea"
105 Lions and tigers
109 Gets the picture
112 *Places to drop envelopes
115 High-five sound
118 Starts to work together
120 In flames
121 Make public
123 Start of a spelling rule, or a rule to keep in mind while answering the starred clues
125 Spot of land
126 Lower in fat
127 Trial spin on a bike
128 Parts in a play
129 Daisylike flowers
130 Tuck away
131 Telepath's ability

Down

1 ___ Romeo: motorsport brand
2 Discontinue
3 Implicit
4 Busiest airport in MO
5 Nintendo consoles that debuted in 2006
6 Switch on the radio?
7 "Rise and shine!"
8 Dazzle
9 Vertical passages
10 Draped wedding garment
11 Discovery astronaut Ochoa
12 "I'm gonna be straight with you ... "
13 Cough syrup amts.
14 OPI rival
15 Sequence of film cuts
16 Regattas
17 Raison d'___
18 High-end camera initials
20 National park north of Anchorage
28 Shorebird with webbed feet
30 Easily broken
32 Salade Niçoise fish
34 ___-sci
37 Nome dome home
38 Bird with a long neck
41 Display flagrantly
43 Destructive wind
44 Bank lobby devices
45 Leisurely gait
46 Subjects of fan clubs
47 "Roman Holiday" scooter
48 Like some heated posts
49 Command
50 "Kinda"
51 "What's up, bro!"
55 Reports by hotline
58 Head lights?
60 Prefix with graph or gram
63 Electronica instrument
65 Hybrid thoroughfare with frequent access points
67 Smoothing tool
68 Shout of discovery
70 Open-toed shoe
71 Alley-___
73 Scouting unit
74 Gimbap alternative
76 Cypress, for one
78 Up to
79 Ian Fleming's alma mater



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80 Glance over
81 Amazon contents
82 Quits fidgeting
83 Card with a single pip
85 Front page material
89 Cunning folks
90 Garden with forbidden fruit
92 Responsibility
95 Home for a squirrel
97 Some deli loaves
98 Genetics pioneer Mendel
101 Piehole
104 Throws, in slang
106 Kiwi in Kyoto, say
107 Sierra ___, Africa
108 Features of some skirts
110 Quietly unnerving
111 Snow day rides
112 Dragon's place
113 "In that case ..."
114 Grammy-winning banjoist Fleck
116 Help out on a heist
117 Cozumel coin
119 Ooze
122 Workplaces for some RNs
124 Texter's "Victory!"

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.
Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow's New York Post.

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Very Easy #7,351

5		1						6
		8		2		7	3	
		7	4	1	9			
7		5				2	8	3
			8		4			
1	8	3				6		9
			7	8	5	9		
	5	9		6		3		
2						8		5

Difficult #7,141

		4	3					
	3			7		1	8	
								9
				5	7	3		4
	5						6	
		8	9	4				
7								
	1	9		3			7	
		6			1	8		

Challenging #565

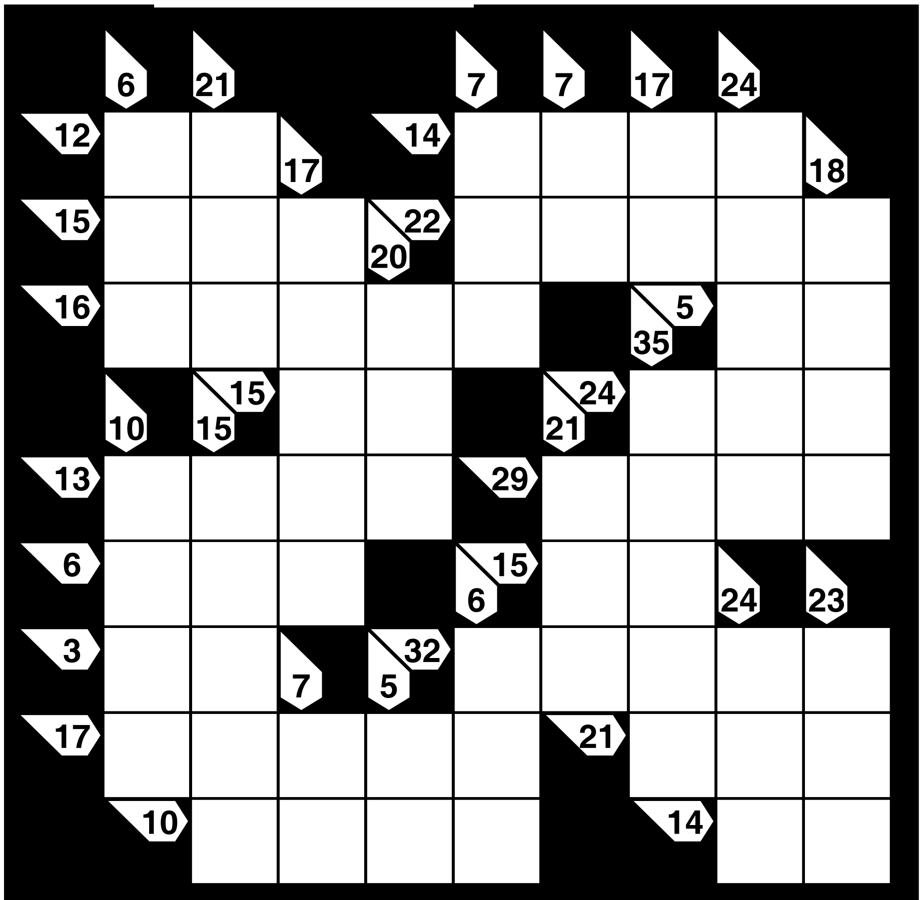
	3						6	
		8		1	9	4		
		9		7				
8				9	5			4
2								9
5			7	4				8
				8		3		
		1	4	6		7		
	6						2	

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 54

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Kakuro

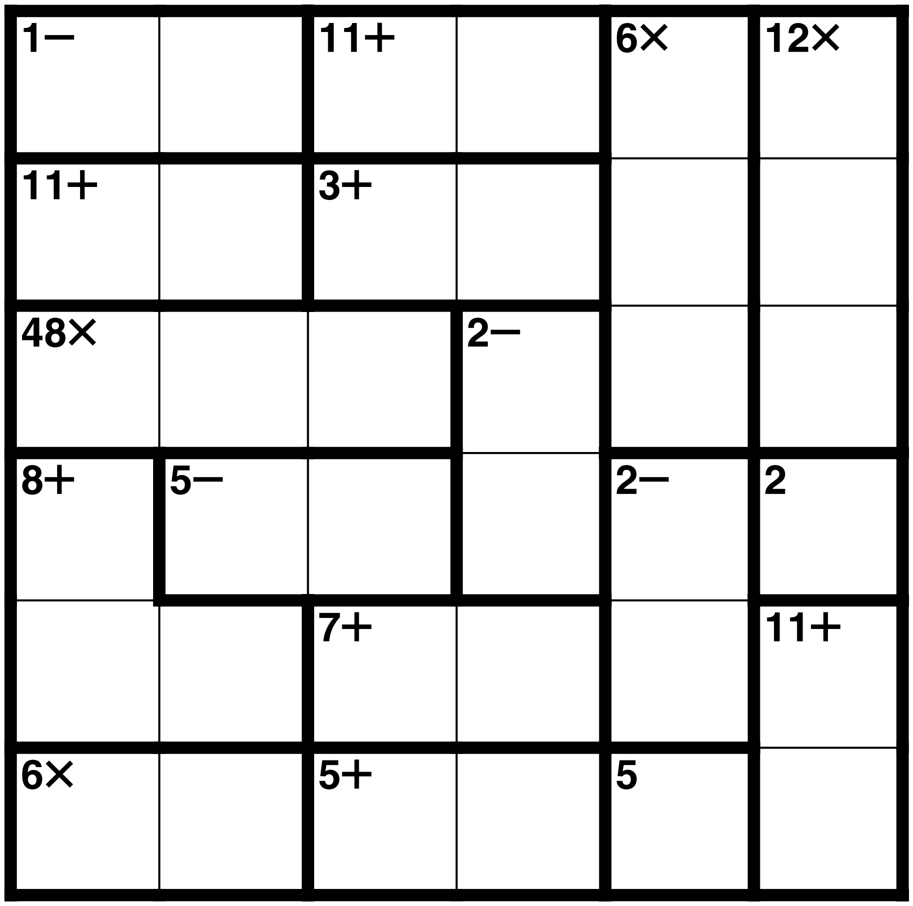
Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



© Andrew Stuart, Syndicated Puzzles #565

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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Chess

Risks and rewards

By Andy Soltis

He can't get away with that, can he?

That's what spectators asked during the most dazzling game of the recent European Championship.

The Spanish grandmaster David Anton began by sacrificing a bishop for two pawns and a promising kingside initiative.

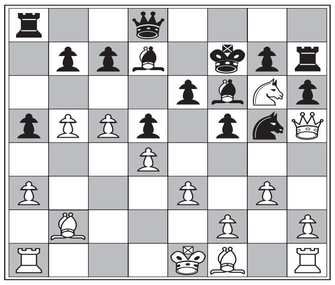
Then for several moves he dared White to take a hanging rook. For example, 18 Nxa8? Nf3+ 19 Kg2 e5! prepares mate with ...Qf5 and ...Qh3.

Anton was a rook down after 22 moves. Yet he calmly kept building up his attack, as fans wondered how he could take such risks.

White was about to get mated when he resigned, e.g. 36 Kh2 Rf2+ 37 Kg1 Rf1+! 38 Kxf1 Qxh1.

SICILIAN DEFENSE
Katowice 2026

	Andrej Ljepic	David Anton
1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	e6
4	O-O	Nge7
5	Re1	Nd4
6	Nxd4	cxd4
7	c3	a6
8	Bf1	Nc6
9	b4	Bd6
10	a4	O-O
11	Na3	f5
12	Nc4	Bxh2+!
13	Kxh2	Qh4+
14	Kg1	fxe4
15	g3	Qf6
16	Qe2	d5
17	Nb6	Ne5!
18	Bh3	g5
19	Rf1	Qg6
20	Bg4	d3!
21	Qd1	Rf3!
22	Bxf3	Nxf3+
23	Kg2	e5!
24	Nxc8	Rxc8
25	b5	a5
26	Ba3	Rc4
27	Rh1	b6
28	Rh3	g4
29	Rh2	e3!
30	fxe3	Qe4
31	Qh1	Rc7
32	Rh5	Nxd2+
33	Kh2	Nf3+
34	Kg2	Rf7
35	Ra2	Nd2+
36	Resigns	



White to play and win.
V. Stefansson-K. Plichta
Katowice 2026

Last week: 1 d6! Bxd6 2 f6! gxf6 3 Qd2 or 2...Rg7 3 fxg7+ Rxg7 4 Qxa8+.

Sunday Word Force

MUNITIONER

From the word or phrase above, form at least 32 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

Ed, my club's expert, has mild heart issues. He had seen a cardiologist and arrived at the club grumbling about doctors who make a shambles of their appointment schedule.

"I'm a good patient when I see the doctor," Ed said, "but when I'm parked in the waiting room, I'm an im-patient or a dis-patient or call me what you will."

Ed got a bit jumpy in today's deal from a penny game: After two passes, he opened four hearts! North would have passed that with 765,86,AQ852,AJ 6. But give Ed credit: East-West could have made four spades, but neither player felt able to come in.

West led the queen of spades, and Ed won and led a diamond: deuce, jack, queen. East then tried to cash the king of spades.

Ed ruffed and led a second diamond to the king and ace. East then led a club, but Ed played low: East, a passed hand, had the king of spades and A-Q of diamonds, so couldn't hold the ace of clubs. West took the ace and returned a club, but Ed won, drew trumps with the A-J and ruffed a diamond. He got to dummy with the eight of trumps and threw his last club on a good diamond. Making four.

East was patient on defense when he should have been unpatient. East-West will need at least one club trick, and the danger exists that dummy's trumps will give South entries to use the long diamonds.

At Trick Three, East must lead the deuce of clubs: five, ace, three. West returns the nine, indicating he had three clubs. When East takes the ace of diamonds, he cashes a club. But if West's carding suggested four clubs, East would try to cash a spade.

North dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 7
♡ J 8 2
◇ K J 5 4 3
♣ J 6 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 4 3
♡ 10 6
◇ 9 8 2
♣ A 9 4

EAST
♠ K 9 6 5 2
♡ 4
◇ A Q 10
♣ Q 10 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A
♡ A K Q 9 7 5 3
◇ 7 6
♣ K 8 5

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	4♡(!)	All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ Q

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All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Boggle BrainBusters!

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61 - 100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

E	P	R	A	D
R	I	S	B	N
A	O	V	H	O
B	N	M	C	T
Y	M	A	P	Y

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SEVEN SNAKES in the grid of letters.

7-26-26

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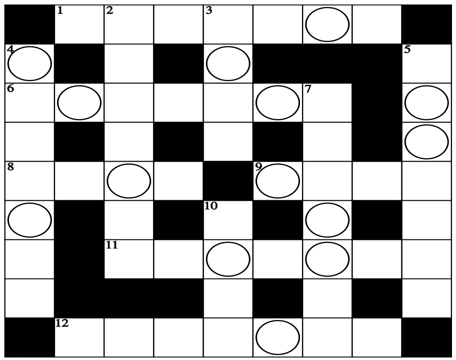
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle


7-26-26

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Animal's environment	BHATTIA
6. Wow	EMIRSPS
8. Hidden hideout	LRIA
9. Mowed area	NWLA
11. Contaminated	DEINTTA
12. By now	EYARALD

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. Name to a position	NOIPATP
3. Thought	EIDA
4. Rural community	LEALIGV
5. Famous political family	NYDNEKE
7. Tilted	DENALST
10. Go up	RSIE

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: The ____ ____ became the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world, following the extinction of the thylacine in 1936.

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SCRABBLE GRAMS

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I₁ I₁ U₁ M₃ R₁ T₁ T₁ — RACK 1

E₁ O₁ L₁ F₄ S₁ F₄ L₁ — RACK 2

I₁ O₁ O₁ C₃ R₁ N₁ M₃ — 1st Letter Triple — RACK 3

I₁ U₁ L₁ R₁ N₁ P₃ C₃ — RACK 4

A₁ E₁ I₁ K₅ W₄ R₁ S₁ — Double Word Score — RACK 5

PAR SCORE 260-270
BEST SCORE 328

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

		1			10	3	2	9	12	4	
9						4	5				10
7	4	3							6	5	11
11		4			6	9			2		7
	2										
3		10		1			4		5		9
10		11		3			7		8		1
										9	
4		7			2	5			11		3
8	10	6							1	11	5
1				11	3						12
	12		11	8	5	7			10		

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Altar, Amen, Believe, Bells, Bible, Bless, Buddhism, Calm, Chapel, Christianity, Church, Courage, Creator, Devotion, Divine, Emotion, Family, Forgive, Glory, Gospel, Guidance, Heals, Heart, Heaven, Hinduism, Humble, Intentions, Judaism, Learn, Lesson, Liturgy, Lord, Love, Mass, Meaning, Mercy, Moral, Mosque, Night, Open, Petition, Plead, Quiet, Quran, Read, Rejoice, Religions, Repeat, Request, Retreat, Ritual, Rosary, Salah, Salvation, Save, Savior, Scripture, Sermon, Shabbat, Siddur, Sikhism, Silence, Soul, Spirit, Synagogue, Temples, Thankful, Thanksgiving, Time, Torah, Unity, Value, Verse, Virtues, Vocation, Voice, Vows

PRAYING **SOLUTION: 8 LETTERS**

Y	N	R	A	E	L	S	C	K	T	T	H	A	R	O	T	C	D	R	E
R	L	N	C	L	E	N	J	H	H	E	A	B	D	A	E	R	A	V	S
O	C	I	O	R	E	U	E	A	A	R	M	B	E	E	O	T	E	L	E
I	O	H	M	I	D	P	N	E	N	P	O	P	B	L	L	I	A	V	M
V	S	O	R	A	T	K	S	V	K	E	E	S	L	A	L	E	A	A	N
A	N	A	I	I	F	A	C	O	S	R	N	L	A	E	H	S	S	L	E
S	N	S	L	U	S	O	C	L	G	O	T	I	B	R	S	S	E	U	V
C	M	O	L	V	U	T	R	O	I	S	R	L	V	S	Y	M	C	E	A
R	Y	U	I	R	A	E	I	G	V	W	A	I	S	I	L	E	N	C	E
I	C	L	A	T	T	T	I	A	I	O	E	T	C	K	D	A	A	R	H
P	R	G	A	R	O	L	I	N	N	V	H	U	H	H	H	N	D	E	T
T	E	L	E	R	E	V	T	O	G	I	E	R	U	I	A	I	I	A	I
U	M	A	A	R	O	E	E	L	N	R	T	G	R	S	L	N	U	T	R
R	T	M	L	U	N	M	O	D	E	T	I	Y	C	M	A	G	G	O	I
E	I	E	L	T	T	R	U	J	B	U	D	D	H	I	S	M	N	R	P
V	M	N	I	E	Y	I	O	T	S	E	U	Q	E	R	U	D	D	I	S
E	E	O	I	T	S	I	R	M	O	S	Q	U	E	L	D	A	E	L	P
R	N	U	I	M	C	S	Y	N	A	G	O	G	U	E	B	L	E	S	S
S	Q	N	N	E	P	O	O	Q	U	R	A	N	O	I	T	I	T	E	P
E	U	E	M	O	T	I	O	N	I	G	H	T	G	H	U	M	B	L	E

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Snaps

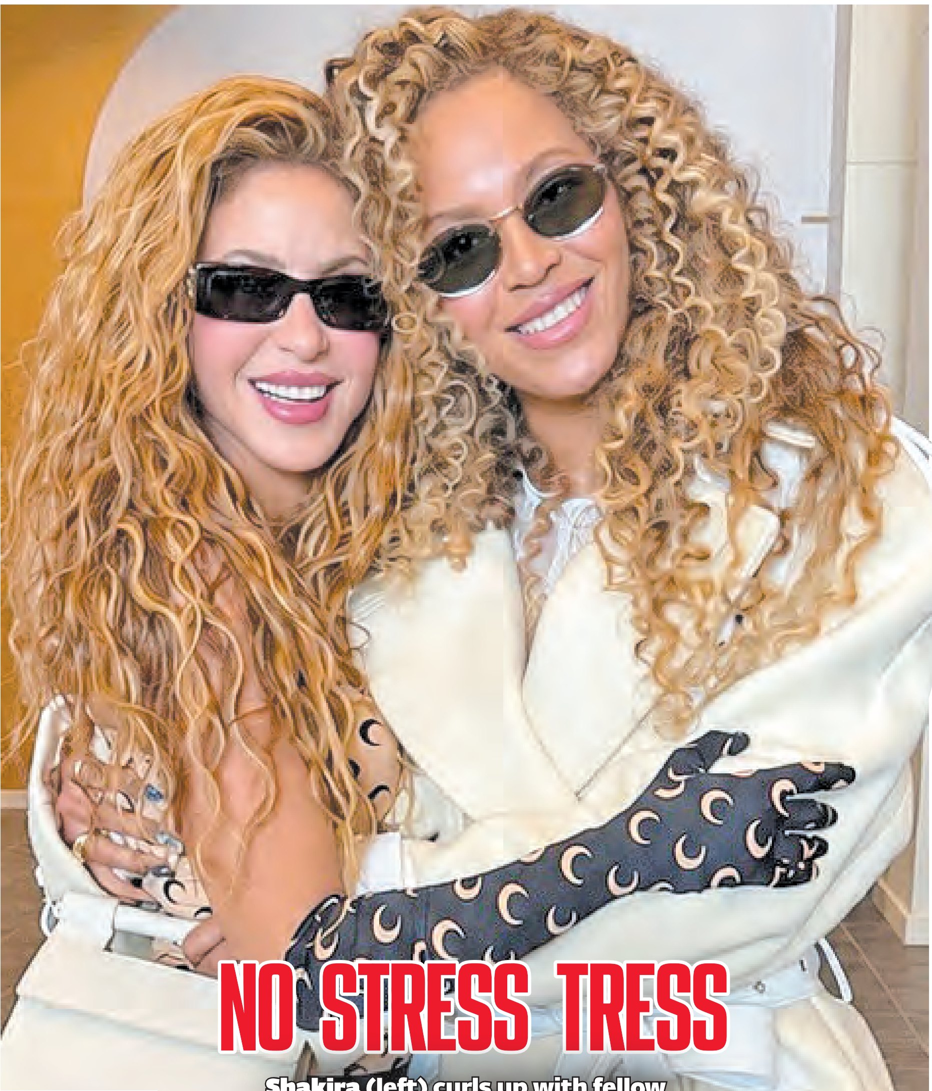
By NY Post staff

shakira/Instagram

praisethelourd/Instagram

HULA HOOPLA

Billie Lourd lei-ces herself into **Katy Perry's** famous look for her "Roar"-themed 34th birthday party.



NO STRESS TRESS

Shakira (left) curls up with fellow well-coiffed legend **Beyoncé** at the World Cup final.

YOU ARE HERE

cruzbeckham/Instagram

THEY'RE 'HERE' FOR IT!

Cruz Beckham and girlfriend **Jackie Apostel** watch Spain avenge England by defeating Argentina in the World Cup.

PERFECT SANDSTORM

Charli xcx hits the dirt in a UK studio to film a video for her new track "Camera."

Click News and Media/BACKGRID

irisapatow/Instagram

THE SUNNY SIDE

Iris blooms in sun! Actress **Iris Apatow** brings her own beautiful weather in a bright yellow dress.

raw/BACKGRID

TALENT 'POOL

Liverpool royal **Sir Paul McCartney** waves after taking part in a local art school's awards ceremony.

HOT-BUTTON TROPIC

It's a jungle out there for **Millie Bobby Brown** in a look she dubbed "coastal cowgirl."

milliebobbybrown/Instagram

FEELING PECK-ISH

Benny Blanco cuddles wife **Selena Gomez** after sailing across the Atlantic to meet her in London.

selenagomez/Instagram

Snaps

BLAZER OF GLORY

Teyana Taylor tailors her look to impress Fifth Avenue.

Ouzounova/SplashNews.com

FULL KOURT PRESS

When you're Kourtney Kardashian, even hawking skin-firming gummies in a Soho photo shoot attracts a crowd.

GTRES / BACKGRID

kourtneykardash/Instagram

USING HER NOODLE

Supermodel Naomi Campbell and a floatie beat the heat with a cool dip in the waters off Ibiza, Spain.

hudsonwilliamsofficial/Instagram

GETTING 'HEATED'

Hudson Williams and his girlfriend, Katelyn Larson, "isle" away the hours on Mykonos.

Sarah Paulson gets a smooch from Paul Anthony Kelly while filming "American Horror Story" Season 13 in Washington Square Park.

HOWDY PILGRIM

Jose Perez/SplashNews.com

Girls just want to have an off-Broadway hit. Cyndi Lauper (right) enjoys Rosie O'Donnell's show, "Common Knowledge," on opening night.

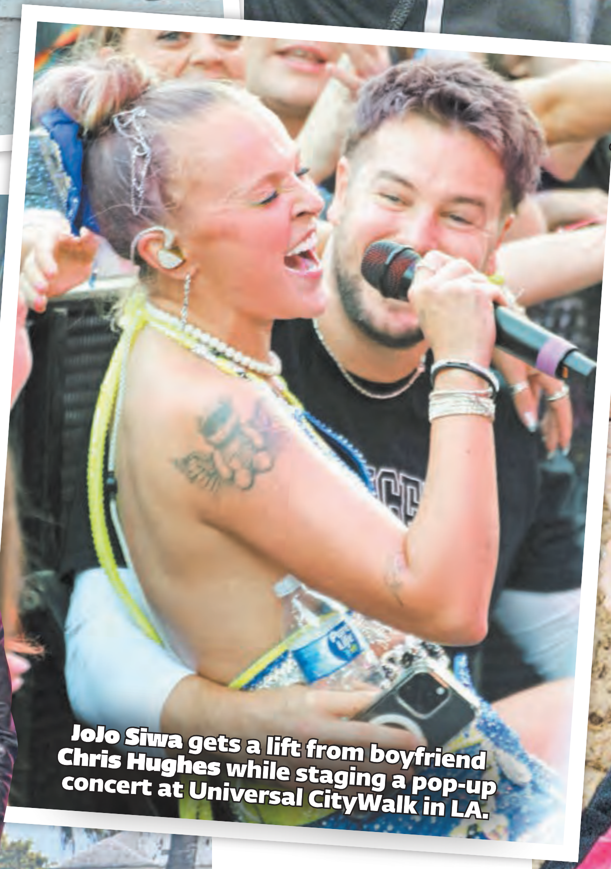
DYE LAUGHING

Bruce Glikas/Getty Images

BUDDY COMEDY

Marcello Hernández and Kevin Hart take comedy seriously at the Plaza Hotel premiere of Netflix film "72 Hours."

Darla Khazei/INSTARimages



JoJo Siwa gets a lift from boyfriend Chris Hughes while staging a pop-up concert at Universal CityWalk in LA.

ABLE TO CARRY A TUNE

GC Images

TikToker Charli D'Amelio takes a break from surfing on Oahu's North Shore to snap some vacay pics.

SIGHT FOR SHORE EYES

charlidamelio/Instagram

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS

LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9 a.m., ABC

Monday: Common, **Mary Beth Barone** (above)

Tuesday: Lacey Chabert, Joe Buck

Wednesday: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Ice-T

TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m., NBC

Monday: Jim Gaffigan, Karlie Kloss

Tuesday: Keke Palmer (above), Jacob Batalon

Wednesday: Sadie Sink, Fabien Frankel

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS LIVE

10 p.m., Bravo

Monday: Marcello Hernández (above), Kevin Hart

Tuesday: "In The City" Reunion Part 2

Wednesday: Trinity Tatum, Bryce Alakai

Sunday July 26, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Big Brother		Tracker: Alaskan Wild (R)		Marshals: In Low Places (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) News
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Philadelphia Phillies from Citizens Bank Park. Live.						Password: Don't Be So	Password (R)	News 4 New York at 11	News
5 WNYW	5	5	5	NHRA Drag Racing	Kitchen Nightmares: Freddy's Steak House (R)		The Simpsons (R)	Animal Control (R)	Universal Basic (R)	Grimsburg (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth	Raw Travel (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos: Nice One Dad!		(8:01) True Lies (1994, Action): A secret agent tries to find a terrorist and save his own troubled marriage. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis. R ★★★						Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Chicago P.D.: A Shot Heard Round the World		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Tick Tock		Suits: 25th Hour	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	The Fugitive (1993, Action): An innocent doctor charged with his wife's murder searches for the real killer. Harrison Ford. PG-13 ★★★½						PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		New York Nightcap	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	Treasures of New York	Anyone Can Sing		Patience: A Monk's Tale		Grantchester		Downton Abbey: Part Seven: Matthew starts to feel his legs; Bates believes Vera is framing him.			
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(5:46) Lucy	(7:02) Great Performances: Henry Mancini 100 at the				Carole King; James Taylor			Great Scenic Railway		
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Aktina TV	Buzz (2009)	Profiles	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Nightmare Theatre			
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Willoughby		NCIS: Off the Grid		NCIS: Keep Going		NCIS: Nonstop		NCIS: Pandora's P1	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	La rosa de Guadalupe		Garra vs Veneno: Guerreros Mundiales				Complices		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo		(7:58) Operación Triunfo				Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	Noticias (R)
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Alex Scott	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning (R)			Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE LFG: Kam Hendrix		WWE: Great	WWE: Great
AMC	54	43	231	The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Drama) Dennis Quaid. PG-13 ★★½					Walking Dead: Dead City		The Walking Dead: Dead City: Trillium			Walking
BBCAM	71	101	189	(5:00) Saving Private Ryan (1998, Drama) Tom Hanks. R ★★★★					A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise. R ★★★½					
BET	37	54	270	Mad (2008)	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		(10:10) Family Feud		(11:20) Family Feud	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Girls Trip	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives Atlanta		Watch What	Housewives		(10:45) Real Housewives		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank: Tank LIVE!	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		The Whole Story with		The Nineties: The One About TV				The Eighties: Raised on	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	(6:00) Great	The Hunt for Colossus		K-Pop Shark Heroes		Red, White and Breach		(10:02) The Mega Sharks		(11:03) Eye of Storm (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Wicked Wonderland		(7:45) The Incredibles 2 (2018, Family) Holly Hunter.				Dragon	(10:20) Wizards Beyond		Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) Pretty Woman (1990, Romance)			Pretty Woman (1990, Romance) Richard Gere. R ★★★					27 Dresses (2008) Katherine Heigl. ★★½		
ESPN	28	36	70	(6:00) X Games New Orleans 2026 Live.					NWSL Soccer Live.				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Life In Th	Life In Th	Life In Th	Women's Sports Live.		WSL: Pro Surf		WWE		What Do You Wan	
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		One Nation		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Food Fight	Flavortown Food Fight		Flavortown Food Fight		The Great Food Truck Race: Music City Mayhem				Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
FREE	38	49	199	Ralph ★★★	(7:15) Monsters, Inc. (2001, Comedy) John Goodman.				(9:20) Monsters University (2013, Comedy) Donald Andersen. G ★★★					Big Hero 6
FS1	400	99	83	Calgary	The Basketball Tournament: Teams TBA Live.				The Basketball Tournament: Alumni Semifinal Taped.				NHRA Drag Racing	
FX	10	40	53	Spider-Man	King of Hill	(7:33) Hill	(8:06) Hill	(8:39) Hill	(9:11) Hill	Captain America: The First Avenger (2011, Action) Chris Evans. ★★★				
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Love Under the Mistletoe (2026)			A Veteran's Christmas (2018) Eloise Mumford.				Crown for Christmas (2015) Danica McKellar. NR ★★★			
HGTV	64	98	165	Love It	Love It or List It		Holmes on Homes		Maine Cabin Masters		Hunters	Hunters	My Rental	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Hazardous	Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History		(10:03) Food Built		(11:05) Food Built (R)	
ID	23	171	123	People	People Magazine		People Magazine		People Magazine: The Cult of the Soulful Journey				Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Girl in Room 13 (2022, Thriller)			What She Didn't Tell Me (2026)				(10:03) Girl in the Coffin (2026, Thriller)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collectors	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Family	Family
MSG	27	87	78	The Wager	Team Boxing: QuarterFinal 1: NYC Attitude At Philadelphia Smoke					MSG Summer	USL Soccer: Westchester SC at AV Alta FC. Replay.			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) FanDuel Racing							PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		The Briefing with Jen		Crooked on MS NOW		The Weekend	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Next Friday (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube. R ★★½				Friday After Next (2002, Comedy) Ice Cube. R ★★				Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	48 Hours:	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
PARMT	36	56	54	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue: Assistant (R)		Bar Rescue: Atrocious (R)		Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue (R)	
SNY	26	60	77	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Cape Cod Baseball League: Falmouth Commodores at Wareham Gatemen.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:00) Holes (2003) PG ★★★		The Da Vinci Code (2006, Mystery) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★★						Angels & Demons (2009) Tom Hanks.		
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(5:30) The Spirit of St. Louis (1957) ★★★			The Kid (1921) NR ★★★★		Baby Boom (1987, Comedy) Diane Keaton. PG ★★½				Bachelor Mother (1939)	
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: So Help Me God				(10:01) 90 Day Diaries		Jay & Pamela: Surprise	
TNT	3	37	51	(6:06) Speed (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★				Road House (2024, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal. R					Speed (1994) R ★★★	
TVLAND	85	34	241	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	In Too Deep (1999, Thriller) LL Cool J. R			Takers (2010, Action) Matt Dillon. PG-13 ★★½					In Too Deep (1999, Thriller) LL Cool J. R		
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: Fatal		Criminal Minds: Angels	
YES	53	89	76	Talkin'	My Number	My Number	My Number	My Number	My Number	My Number	Postgame	Homegrown	Talkin'	Behind NY
HBO	511	301	400	(6:47) Of the Dragon (R)		House of the Dragon: Unbowed and (R)			House of the Dragon		(10:07) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:15) Last Week	
MAX	531	371	420	Sucker ★★½	(7:12) Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) R ★★½				(8:57) The Wolfman (2010, Horror) R ★★			(10:40) Final Destination (2000, Horror)		
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:45) The Running Man (2025, Action) Glen Powell, Josh Brolin.					The Westies: Favors		The Westies: Favors		A Working Man (2025) R	

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1 THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ORANGE COUNTY

New episodes air Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET/PT on Bravo, stream next day on Peacock

A NEW PHASE OF LIFE

Tamra Judge on filming 'RHOC' Season 20 as an empty nester

Tamra Judge stars on "The Real Housewives of Orange County" Season 20 (above).

credit

By KAREN KEMMERLE and MACKENZIE ROBBINS

Tamra Judge is reinventing herself once again! **"The Real Housewives of Orange County"** mainstay is embracing a new phase of her life—being an empty nester—by diving into her 16th season of the OG Bravo franchise. Joined once again by reinstated orange holder Vicki Gunvalson, Judge is more determined than ever to whoop it up with the ladies after a difficult Season 19 reunion. "I'm still very, very hurt and damaged by that experience," said Judge. "I'm just tippy-toeing around seeing who truly is my friend."

At this point in the season, Judge and her former bestie, Shannon Storms Beador, are still on the outs. "Shannon's just one of those people who really holds a grudge forever," said Judge simply. However, Judge confirmed that the two have made progress in their friendship. "Things are going in the right direction." When asked if the Tres Amigas will ever be back together, Judge gave fans reason to hope. "We really are trying," said Judge. "We're in a good place right now."

Judge could use all the friends she can get. After Jennifer Pedranti reported to Judge that Heather Dubrow was talking about her behind her back, Judge removed herself from the situation instead of confronting Dubrow at her Heels and Hearts party. "I didn't understand where Jennifer was coming from," said Judge, noting the two of them "weren't exactly in the best of places" at the time. "I wanted to hear Heather's side of the story, but I didn't want to hear it that night," said Judge.

Judge stopped by the DECIDER studio to talk about the season, tease a "calmer Tamra," and reveal who will have the most to answer for at the Season 20 reunion.

DECIDER: You and Vicki Gunvalson clearly haven't missed a beat in your friendship. What was it like to film with her again as a fellow orange holder?

TAMRA JUDGE: It was like being home. It was just so natural and easy. I have so much fun with her. Our chemistry together is so good. There's a great scene with us in last week's episode. I texted her like, "I am cracking up just watching us." It's crazy.

I did see that Instagram video you posted from last week's episode of you, Vicki, and Shannon Beador outside of Hamburger Mary's. Are the Tres Amigas back?

We're trying. We really are trying. We're at a good place right now. Vicki and I are always good. With Shannon... I think things are going in the right direction.

You've got so much going on with your family, your multiple businesses, and your successful podcasting network. What are viewers going to see from you this season?

They are going to see a little bit of a calmer Tamra. Maybe somebody that thinks before she reacts [laughs]. While my daughter is a big part of the show, I'm now an empty nester. I've officially got no kids at home. I've been raising kids for 40 years, and now I'm just in a different phase of my life.

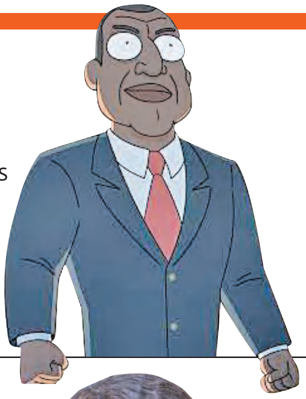
It's probably too early to talk about the reunion, but when the time comes, who do you think will have the most to answer for and why?

Vicki's got a lot to answer for. Heather—for her part during the first half of the season—will have a lot to answer for. To be honest, Jen's being quite the little instigator this season. We all do our fair share of that. We do our jobs. We have great conversations, and we question people about certain things. There was a lot of conflict and resolution this season. We never really got stuck on the same thing for very long. It's a really good season. Everybody is really close.

2 PRESIDENT CURTIS

Sunday 11:30 p.m., Adult Swim

Keith David reprises his role of the titular **President Andre Curtis** (right) in this new series set in the universe of "Rick and Morty."



3 FURIOUS

Monday, Hulu

Emmy Rossum (right) leads this crime thriller series as FBI Agent Alice Black, who sets out on the search for "a mysterious and calculating female serial killer" (played by Lola Petticrew).

4 DIARRA FROM DETROIT

Wednesday, Paramount+

The dark comedy mystery series created, written by, and starring **Diarra Kilpatrick** (right) returns with the first two episodes of Season 2.

5 KITCHEN UNDERCOVER

Tuesday 9 p.m., Food Network

Chef Antonia Lofaso and sous-chef Nestor Milian team up to help failing restaurants in this new series described by the network as "a high-stakes, sneak attack restaurant rescue."

6 THE BOMBING OF PAN AM 103

Thursday, Netflix

This limited series is a dramatization of the tragic explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 on Dec. 21, 1988, which resulted in the deaths of 270 people. The cast includes Connor Swindells and Patrick J. Adams.

7 HOUSE OF STASSI

Wednesday, Freeform

"Vanderpump Rules" alum **Stassi Schroeder** (right) is back in the spotlight in this new "meta-docuseries," which will also feature fellow "VPR" alum Katie Maloney.

8 ADULTS: "MARATHON DAY"

Friday 1 p.m., FXX/Hulu

This standalone prequel episode of the hit ensemble comedy takes a look into how Paul Baker (**Jack Innanen**, right) met the series' core friend group.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

The Sun in your sign makes several major links as the new week begins, so you can expect some serious events to take place, both in your own affairs and in the wider world. Don't let them stop you having fun though - that's what life is really about.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

By all means let your intuition guide you, but don't lose sight of the fact that not everyone wants to move in the same direction as you. If you are brave enough to face the future on your own this week it's unlikely you will be alone for long.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

As the most balanced sign of the zodiac you are used to meeting people halfway, but if you compromise too much others will surely take advantage of you. The closer you get to Wednesday's full moon the more you must be on your guard.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You must keep your eye on the bigger picture, because if you allow yourself to get lost in details you won't understand what is going on. There is a reason certain events are now taking place but you will only see it if you stand back a bit.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The time has come to break away from addictive forms of behavior that are making life tougher than it needs to be. Take a hard look at how you spend your time and then make changes that free up both time and energy for a higher calling.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

What is your highest ideal? What would you do with your life if you did not have to worry about making a living and pleasing other people? Make that your guiding star for the next seven days, then turn those days into weeks, months and years.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

The Sun's journey through your opposite sign over the next few weeks will bring challenges of a one-to-one nature but you don't have to win at all costs. Always act from the belief that winning means more when other people win with you.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)

Some of your friends and relatives will go out of their way to make life difficult for you over the next few days, but don't make an issue of it. They are so caught up in their own world of problems that they really can't help themselves.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

You will feel wonderfully alive over the coming week but that does not mean there won't be challenges. One such challenge will come in the shape of someone who seems determined to oppose your wishes at every turn. Find out what motivates them.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

The next few days will bring a few problems but also the means to overcome them and maybe even turn them in your favor. For best results, find a quiet place where you can be alone with your thoughts and listen to what your inner voice is saying.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

A rival on the work front will be looking for ways to make you look bad this week, so be on your guard at all times. If you make even a minor mistake they will declare it to be of earth-shattering importance. It isn't, so defend yourself.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

You will be flavor of the month in certain circles over the next few days, but you will also be criticized by someone who resents your popularity. There is no way their words can hurt you, so shrug off their complaints. Better still, just ignore them.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Saturn's influence on your birthday will encourage you to draw a line under the past and move ahead without all that emotional and mental baggage you have carried around for so long. Any day can be a new beginning, and this is your special day.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

A	C	T	■	S	W	A	G	■	A	S	S	E	R	T	■	E	M	B	E	D
L	E	A	D	T	I	M	E	■	W	H	A	L	E	S	■	S	O	O	T	S
F	A	C	E	L	I	F	T	■	E	A	R	L	A	P	■	S	N	A	R	L
A	S	I	N	■	S	M	U	G	■	F	E	E	L	S	B	I	T	T	E	R
■	E	T	A	T	■	■	P	U	P	T	E	N	T	■	R	E	A	R	■	■
■	■	■	L	U	I	S	■	L	O	S	■	■	A	F	I	■	G	A	G	A
L	I	V	I	N	G	W	I	L	L	■	B	I	L	L	T	H	E	C	A	T
O	D	E	■	A	L	A	N	■	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	■	E	L	M
P	O	S	H	■	O	N	C	E	■	A	H	H	■	U	L	Y	S	S	E	S
E	L	P	A	S	O	■	A	P	P	L	E	■	E	N	E	M	Y	■	■	■
■	S	A	L	T	■	S	P	I	L	L	S	O	U	T	■	A	N	T	S	■
■	■	■	O	R	C	A	S	■	A	S	T	O	R	■	U	N	T	R	U	E
S	A	S	S	O	O	N	■	A	N	I	■	P	E	N	N	■	H	O	S	T
C	G	I	■	A	N	D	S	C	E	N	E	■	K	E	T	O	■	O	H	O
A	U	T	O	D	I	A	L	E	R	■	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	P	I	N
N	A	S	A	■	F	L	Y	■	■	K	E	Y	■	S	L	U	R	■	■	■
■	■	S	K	Y	E	■	F	E	L	I	N	E	S	■	■	S	E	E	S	■
L	I	T	T	E	R	B	O	X	E	S	■	S	L	A	P	■	G	E	L	S
A	F	I	R	E	■	E	X	P	O	S	E	■	I	B	E	F	O	R	E	E
I	S	L	E	T	■	L	E	A	N	E	R	■	T	E	S	T	R	I	D	E
R	O	L	E	S	■	A	S	T	E	R	S	■	S	T	O	W	■	E	S	P

Su Doku

5	2	1	3	7	8	4	9	6
4	9	8	5	2	6	7	3	1
6	3	7	4	1	9	5	2	8
7	4	5	6	9	1	2	8	3
9	6	2	8	3	4	1	5	7
1	8	3	2	5	7	6	4	9
3	1	4	7	8	5	9	6	2
8	5	9	1	6	2	3	7	4
2	7	6	9	4	3	8	1	5

Very Easy #7,351

1	6	4	3	8	9	7	5	2
9	3	2	5	7	4	1	8	6
8	7	5	1	6	2	4	3	9
6	9	1	8	5	7	3	2	4
4	5	7	2	1	3	9	6	8
3	2	8	9	4	6	5	1	7
7	8	3	6	9	5	2	4	1
2	1	9	4	3	8	6	7	5
5	4	6	7	2	1	8	9	3

Difficult #7,141

1	3	5	8	2	4	9	6	7
6	7	8	3	1	9	4	5	2
4	2	9	5	7	6	1	8	3
8	1	3	2	9	5	6	7	4
2	4	7	6	3	8	5	1	9
5	9	6	7	4	1	2	3	8
9	5	2	1	8	7	3	4	6
3	8	1	4	6	2	7	9	5
7	6	4	9	5	3	8	2	1

Challenging #565

Super Su Doku

6	11	1	5	7	10	3	2	9	12	4	8
9	8	2	12	6	11	4	5	1	3	7	10
7	4	3	10	9	8	1	12	2	6	5	11
11	1	4	8	5	6	9	3	12	2	10	7
5	2	12	9	10	7	8	11	3	4	1	6
3	6	10	7	1	12	2	4	11	5	8	9
10	5	11	2	3	9	6	7	4	8	12	1
12	3	8	6	4	1	11	10	5	7	9	2
4	9	7	1	12	2	5	8	10	11	6	3
8	10	6	3	2	4	12	9	7	1	11	5
1	7	5	4	11	3	10	6	8	9	2	12
2	12	9	11	8	5	7	1	6	10	3	4

Kakuro

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	3	9	■	■	1	2	8	3	■
■	2	8	5	■	4	5	9	1	3
■	1	4	3	6	2	■	■	4	1
■	■	■	6	9	■	■	8	7	9
■	4	3	1	5	■	8	7	9	5
■	3	1	2	■	■	6	9	■	■
■	1	2	■	■	2	7	6	9	8
■	2	5	6	3	1	■	5	7	9
■	■	4	1	2	3	■	■	8	6

Kakuro #565

KEN KEN

1− 3	4	11+ 5	6	6× 2	12× 1
11+ 6	5	3+ 1	2	3	4
48× 4	6	2	2− 5	1	3
8+ 5	5− 1	6	3	2− 4	2 2
1	2	7+ 3	4	6	11+ 5
6× 2	3	5+ 4	1	5 5	6

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Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Habitat 6A-Impress 8A-Lair 9A-Lawn 11A-Tainted 12A-Already 2D-Appoint 3D-Idea 4D-Village 5D-Kennedy 10D-Rise B-Tasmanian Devil

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

BOA, ASP, COBRA, VIPER, MAMBA, PYTHON, ANACONDA

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

T_1	R_1	I_1	T_1	I_1	U_1	M_3	RACK 1 =	59
S_1	E_1	L_1	L_1	O_1	F_4	F_4	RACK 2 =	63
M_3	O_1	R_1	O_1	N_1	I_1	C_3	RACK 3 =	67
P_3	I_1	N_1	C_3	U_1	R_1	L_1	RACK 4 =	61
S_1	K_5	I_1	W_4	E_1	A_1	R_1	RACK 5 =	78

PAR SCORE 260-270 TOTAL 328

Sunday Word Force

ennui
inert
inner
inter
intro
inure
merit
metro
miner
minor
mirin
miter
mount
mourn
niter
nitro
nonet
outer
outre
remit
route
tenon
tenor
timer
toner
tumor
tuner
union
unite
unmet
untie
urine

Wonderword answer: KNEELING

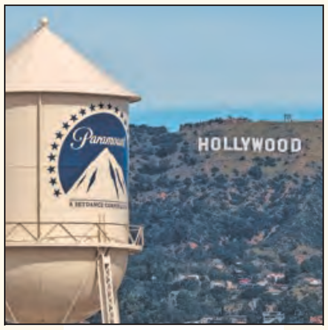
THE WEEK'S WINNERS

MIAMI
Google reportedly quadruples its office space there after co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin fled California over proposed billionaires tax.

IMAX
"The Odyssey" delivered a record $52 million on opening weekend, and tickets are fetching more than $1,000, The Post reported.

JERSEY MIKE'S
Sandwich chain aiming to raise as much as $1.1 billion in an initial public offering that could value it at $8 billion.

LOSERS



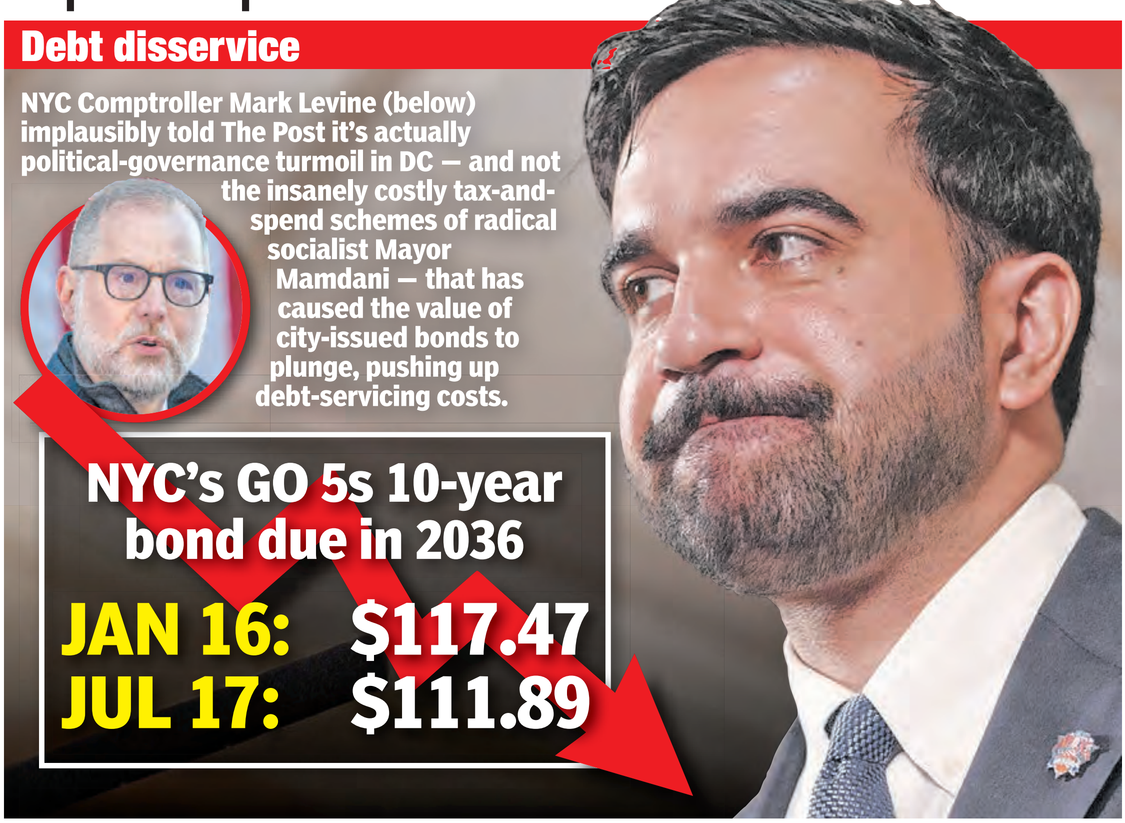
PARAMOUNT SKYDANCE
The $110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery might not close until next year or until a ruling on several states' challenge to the deal.

DISNEY
"Mouse House" announced several hundred layoffs, with Pixar taking a major hit despite the blockbuster success of "Toy Story 5."

GOOGLE
Tech giant hit with $1 billion fine by European regulators for favoring its own services and restricting app developers.

MAM MUNI MESS

Loony lefty spurs painful market markdown



Debt disservice

NYC Comptroller Mark Levine (below) implausibly told The Post it's actually political-governance turmoil in DC — and not the insanely costly tax-and-spend schemes of radical socialist Mayor Mamdani — that has caused the value of city-issued bonds to plunge, pushing up debt-servicing costs.

NYC's GO 5s 10-year bond due in 2036

JAN 16: $117.47
JUL 17: $111.89

MediaPunch / BACKGRID, Getty Images

CHARLES GASPARINO

NEW York City is in pretty great shape financially. Recent drops in the price of its bonds aren't because of worries about Mayor Mamdani's socialist fiscal policies. Instead, it's because of some stuff happening in DC that's rattling the entire bond market.

That, at least, is the far-fetched spin coming from New York City Comptroller Mark Levine, the city's independently elected chief fiscal officer. He was responding to questions I had last week about the recent uptick in so-called yields — interest rates on the Big Apple's municipal debt.

For bond-market novices, yields and prices go in opposite directions even as they signal the same thing: the value of lending money to the city. Yields spike when prices decline because investors demand more compensation for taking the risk of holding a bond until maturity when the loan is repaid (typically in 10 years).

That's exactly what has been happening as Mamdani doubles down on his Marxist Third-Worldism, every minute of every day, it seems. Yields on the 10-year municipal bond spiked for the week ending July 17, to 3.46% from 3.34%, after a jump the week before.

These weren't isolated examples. Look at a chart of city bond prices since Mamdani took office and, in addition to precipitous drop between January and this month, you see a premium being demanded by investors in the form of higher yields. That trend mellowed out for a time, after he "balanced" his first budget (with various gimmicks, of course), but more recently prices have resumed their descent.

Yes, Levine correctly points out that many factors cause city bond prices to seesaw. Bonds in general have been falling across the board because of the high price of oil and inflation fears rooted in policies coming out of Washington.

"The recent movement in the City's bond yields does not indicate an eroding tax base, which is at record levels, or the expectation of a rating downgrade," comptroller rep Shaquana DeVissiere tells me. "Over the same period, the 10-year municipal benchmark rose a comparable amount, suggesting that the change reflects broader market conditions."

DeVissiere also claims "the city's credit remains strong."

Triple tax-free

I'll come back to these statements in a moment, but recall that muni bonds have unique characteristics in that they are triple tax-free. You don't pay federal, state or local taxes if you're a city resident and hold them. That makes NYC munis a great tax shelter when you have a mayor who wants to soak the rich — as Mamdani is doing now.

In other words, prices should be more stable, Wall Street financial advisers tell me — unless, of course, you worry that the guy in charge wants to blow the place up.

Mamdani is not merely content to spend record amounts of money (see his $125.8 billion budget) on boondoggles like government-run grocery stores. He also wants to milk already overtaxed wealth creators more — even as they continue to flee to Florida.

Our credit "remains strong" for now, Mr. Comptroller, but the tax base is "eroding" as every statistic shows people who can afford to leave are, in fact, leaving in droves. Meanwhile, people who monitor our "credit" at the Wall Street rating agencies are in fact warning it's not so strong.

Mamdani also has an odd way of governing a diverse city that's home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel. On top of his refusal to oppose "globalizing the intifada," he wants Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrested for war crimes. When the mayor learns that can't be done, he calls for protests if and when the PM visits the city.

Then he seems surprised that antisemitic hate crimes are up, including a couple of apparently hate-inspired stabbings on the Upper West Side just after he calls for protests.

Not exactly reassuring for bond-investors. I say this as someone who has covered this market for decades. It's not just bond ratings and budgets that move muni-bond prices; confidence in the mayor, or lack thereof, matters as well.

I remember when David Dinkins was elected mayor and the city's bonds began to fall. Like our current mayor, Dinkins came to office with a pretty weak résumé (city clerk, Manhattan borough president), which in hindsight looks positively Churchillian compared to Mamdani's (an assemblyman and rapper).

Still, as Dinkins started governing in 1990, bond prices started to fall, pretty dramatically for a while until he got his act together. It wasn't just because of falling tax revenues and Wall Street cutbacks following the 1987 market crash, and of course his own progressive spending plans.

The real problem was when it was revealed that, amid the worst budget crisis since the 1970s, Dinkins did something foolish and spent $11,500 — much of that from public funds — on a fancy headboard in his Gracie Mansion bedroom.

Yes, muni-bond prices did fall on that news. That's why it's also a good bet that munis are now falling partly because we have a mayor who seems less interested in arresting their decline than in arresting the Israeli prime minister.

Classifieds

nypost.com

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL

Malkin Holdings LLC seeks Investment Associate (New York, NY) (Hybrid): Spprt our priv invstmt dlgnce proc by assessng cos as invstmts for clients. Work drctly w/ the princ to hlp prep memos regrdng co-invstmts, fllw-on invstmts, & new opprtnstc invstmts for the Invstmt Comm (IC). Min. reqs.: Mast's in accntng, finnce, busnss adminstrtn, econmcs, or a rel fld (frgn equvlnt degr accptble) + 3 yrs of exp as an analyst in invstmnt mngmnt orgnztns. Rmte wrk prmttd 2 dys/wk wthn NY. Salary: $150,000-$175,000/yr, M-F, 40 hrs/wk. Send resume to hr@malkinholdings.com.

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- Truck for material deliveries
- Basic construction skills
- Able to work independently or on a team
- Good problem-solving skills

Full-time (40 hrs/week) preferred; qualified part-time applicants considered.
Pay: $20–$30/hr, based on experience and full-/part-time status.
CALL (516)-996-7088 Tommy Jr.

CALL (516)-860-5208 Tommy Sr.

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Mondrian Collection LLC in New York, NY seeks 1 Marketing Consultant To conduct market research, analyze, report, forecast marketing trend in jewelry industry. Coordinate marketing campaigns, initiate strategist marketing and product development. MS in Bus Admin/rltd major req: F/T, M-F, 9am-5pm, 83k/yr, Send CV to: aashin@mondriancollection.com. Ref #MC26MC

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- **MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**
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Tuesday: Monday 2:30PM
Wednesday: Tuesday 2:30PM
Thursday: Wednesday 2:30PM
Friday: Thursday 2:30PM
Saturday: Friday 2:30PM
Sunday: Friday 2:30PM

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PROFESSIONAL

Project Management Specialist (Oakland Gardens, NY): Dvlp & maintain project scheds, budgets & resource allocation plans using quantitative modeling & economic principles for co's projects; Track project progress & performance metrics through data-driven methods & prep regular status reports; Coord change orders, subcontractor activities & material deliveries while performing risk evaluations & resource optimization to minimize delays & cost overruns; Conduct scenario planning & economic evaluation of resources to ensure projects are completed on time & w/in budget. Bachelor's deg of Mathematics & Economics, or a closely rltd quantitative field is reqd; Reqd Bachelor's deg coursework: 1. Business Project Management; 2. Business Analytics. Annual wage: $82,763. Send resumes to: Marvel Contracting Service Inc, 5819 230th St, Oakland Gardens, NY 11364

AARCO Contracting LLC
Project Management Specialist (Great Neck, NY) Plan project activities & resource needs based on site evaluations & client objectives. Conduct on-site assessments to document existing conditions, confirm measurements & identify techn'l constraints affecting project execution. Review architectural & structural drawings & project specs. Coord vendors by sourcing materials, tracking delivery scheds & ensuring resources align w/ project milestones & qlty stds. Rate of Pay: $81,500/yr. Approx 15% of work time travel to NY State worksites for on-site assessments & monitoring site progress. Bachelor's deg in Engg Mgmt or Industrial Engg reqd; may telecommute from anywhere in the US; travel to various sites throughout NY State reqd; M-F, 40 hrs./wk; send resume to Ali Anwar, Principal, AARCO Contracting LLC, 44 Old Field LN, Great Neck, NY 11020.

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Oversee daily pharmacy operations, staff supervision, workflow, and scheduling. Oversee purchasing and inventory of medicine and supplies. Manage vendor relationships, monitor supply chain efficiency, and coordinate insurance and billing procedures. Ensure compliance with regulatory standards and accreditation requirements. Maintain accurate records and operational reports. Pharmacist license not required. Bachelor's in Business Administration or Pharmacy required. Offered salary: $81,411.00/yr. Mail resume: 50 Oceana Pharmacy Corp; Attn: R. Ashraf, 3211 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235.

Project Management Specialist for Children's Chinese Book Garden, LLC, F/T in New York, NY. Coord & implmnt proj plans for school initiatives by gathering cross-dept needs, aligning priorities, & supporting collabn among academic, admin, & external partners; define operational & syst reqmts, incl student enrollment, CRM, schedg, & learning-support tools, to improve workflow integration & srvc delivery; & mng proj execution thru timeline tracking, docn, status reporting, risk control, budget monitoring, vendor coordn, & process improvement. Must have a Master's Degree in Proj Mgmt. Email resumes giselajia@gmail.com.

Operations Director. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Design Practice, Quantity Surveying or Construction Management plus 5 years progressive postgraduate experience, or its equivalent. Range $119K - $120K per year. Mace North America Ltd, New York, NY. Resume to tom.hughes@macegroup.com (multiple pos. available)

PROFESSIONAL

Associate Attorney (New York, NY) Conduct due diligence for IPOs and M&As; draft SEC filings (S-1, F-1, 10-Q, 10-K, 8-K); prepare corporate governance documents; and advise on securities regulations and complex corporate transactions. $156,832/year. Req. JD or LLM. NY Bar admission with 1 year exp. Email resume to Hunter Taubman NY LLP, at HTsai@htflawyers.com

Senior Cost Consultant. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Quantity Surveying or Construction Management plus 5 years progressive postgraduate experience, or its equivalent. Range $119K - $120K per year. Mace North America Ltd, New York, NY. Resume to tom.hughes@macegroup.com (multiple pos. available)

Cost Consultant. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Quantity Surveying or Construction Management plus 5 years progressive postgraduate experience, or its equivalent. Range $119K - $120K per year. Mace North America Ltd, New York, NY. Resume to tom.hughes@macegroup.com (multiple pos. available)

TECH CAREERS

Technology Design Engineer (NY, NY) – Devlp engg tech planning projcts in electrcl & electronc systm netwrk routing infrastrctr for commercial & public building. Req MS in Power & Energy Systms, or EE +2 yrs exp in ICT systms w/ audio-visual AV solutns. Req skills & knowldg in AutoCAD, Revit, Ekahau Pro, ICT/AV System Desn, Natl Electrical Code, AV Schematic/Wiring Diagram Devlpmt. $135.2k~$140k/yr. Send rés w/code SOP002 to HR, Loring Consulting, 360 W31st St, Fl 14, NY, NY 10001

Computer Systems Analyst
to analyze various system administration and network problems and implement solutions. Bachelor's in Information Technology and Management req. $80,600/yr. Chestnut Ridge, NY. Fax resume to Big Tows Inc at (845) 352-1446

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EMPLOYMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

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Golf

LIV Golf United Kingdom; At JCB Golf and Country Club Rocester, England;Purse: $20M; Yardage: 7,332; Par: 72
Third Round

Lucas Herbert	61-66-69-196	-20
Bryson DeChambeau	64-67-68-199	-17
Tyrrell Hatton	66-68-67-201	-15
Harold Varner III	66-69-68-203	-14
Cameron Smith	69-67-66-202	-14
Abraham Ancer	68-70-65-203	-13
Byeong-Hun An	67-68-70-205	-11
Marc Leishman	68-68-71-207	-9
Caleb Surratt	68-69-70-207	-9
Charles Howell III	68-70-69-207	-9
Peter Uihlein	69-67-72-208	-8
Adrian Meronk	70-68-70-208	-8
Scott Vincent	68-71-69-208	-8
Dean Burmester	70-66-73-209	-7
Laurie Canter	73-66-70-209	-7
Ian Poulter	68-71-70-209	-7
Carlos Ortiz	70-68-72-210	-6
Anthony Kim	73-70-67-210	-6
Bjoern Hellgren	68-71-72-211	-5
Thomas Pieters	71-68-72-211	-5
Anirban Lahiri	68-69-75-212	-4
Charl Schwartzel	73-69-70-212	-4
David Puig	73-69-70-212	-4
Branden Grace	71-73-68-212	-4
Jose Luis Ballester	72-69-72-213	-3
Lee Westwood	71-70-72-213	-3
Tom McKibbin	73-70-70-213	-3
Joaquin Niemann	73-72-68-213	-3
Richard T. Lee	67-71-76-214	-2
Paul Casey	73-69-72-214	-2
Luis Masaveu	68-75-71-214	-2
Jon Rahm	73-70-71-214	-2
Matthew Wolff	72-71-72-215	-1
Martin Vorster	72-70-74-216	E
Victor Perez	74-70-72-216	E
Dustin Johnson	73-69-75-217	+1
Cameron Tringale	74-70-73-217	+1
Travis Smyth	71-69-78-218	+2
Richard Bland	71-73-74-218	+2
Thomas Detry	69-76-73-218	+2
Martin Kaymer	72-70-77-219	+3
Graeme McDowell	72-72-75-219	+3
Bubba Watson	71-73-75-219	+3
Young-Han Song	71-74-74-219	+3
Min-Kyu Kim	73-73-73-219	+3
Talor Gooch	71-76-72-219	+3
Yosuke Asaji	75-73-71-219	+3
Sam Horsfield	73-75-71-219	+3
Sebastian Munoz	78-70-71-219	+3
Danny Lee	74-75-70-219	+3
Ben Campbell	75-76-68-219	+3

PGA Tour- 3M Open
At TPC Twin Cities; Blaine, Minn.; Purse: $8.8 million; Yardage: 7,431; Par: 71
Third Round

Jackson Koivun	64-68-61	193	-20
Emiliano Grillo	64-67-65	196	-17
Ben Kohles	62-69-65	196	-17
Michael Brennan	65-69-63	197	-16
Chandler Phillips	66-65-66	197	-16
Billy Horschel	67-66-65	198	-15
Michael Kim	69-59-70	198	-15
Denny McCarthy	66-68-64	198	-15
Brian Harman	69-64-66	199	-14
Seamus Power	68-68-63	199	-14
Scottie Scheffler	65-70-64	199	-14
Davis Thompson	68-68-63	199	-14
Lee Hodges	68-67-65	200	-13
Hideki Matsuyama	70-65-65	200	-13
Zac Blair	68-65-68	201	-12
Davis Chatfield	69-68-64	201	-12
Troy Merritt	66-66-69	201	-12
Kevin Yu	69-66-66	201	-12
Chandler Blanchet	67-68-67	202	-11
Gary Woodland	64-71-67	202	-11
Zecheng Dou	67-69-67	203	-10
Casey Jarvis	71-66-66	203	-10
Chris Kirk	70-69-64	203	-10
Kurt Kitayama	68-69-66	203	-10
Hank Lebioda	69-69-65	203	-10
Kevin Roy	65-70-68	203	-10
Austin Smotherman	68-67-68	203	-10
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	68-67-69	204	-9
Ricky Castillo	71-68-65	204	-9
Patrick Fishburn	70-68-66	204	-9
Beau Hossler	69-68-67	204	-9
Mark Hubbard	70-69-65	204	-9
Tom Kim	68-69-67	204	-9
Keith Mitchell	68-69-67	204	-9
Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen	66-72-66	204	-9
Kevin Streelman	67-68-69	204	-9
Jesper Svensson	65-69-70	204	-9
John VanDerLaan	67-71-66	204	-9
Kris Ventura	72-66-66	204	-9
Vince Whaley	67-69-68	204	-9

Champions Tour - ISPS HANDA Senior Open
At Kings Course; Auchterarder, United Kingdom; Purse: $2.9 million; Yardage: 6,859; Par: 70
Third Round

Jerry Kelly	66-68-68	202	-8
Cameron Percy	63-68-71	202	-8
Peter Baker	69-69-67	205	-5
Darren Fichardt	70-68-68	206	-4
Markus Brier	67-69-71	207	-3
Ernie Els	65-71-71	207	-3
Pat Perez	65-75-67	207	-3

LPGA Tour - ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open
At Dundonald Links; Troon, United Kingdom; Purse: $2 million; Yardage: 6,543; Par: 72
Third Round

Jenny Shin	66-67-71	204	-12
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-69-69	209	-7
Erika Hara	70-70-71	211	-5
Esther Henseleit	70-68-73	211	-5
A Lim Kim	67-72-74	213	-3
Lauren Coughlin	66-74-74	214	-2
Miyu Yamashita	70-74-70	214	-2

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Charlotte blanks Red Bulls

All-Stars **Pep Biel** and **Ashley Westwood** scored goals in the opening minutes, and Charlotte FC beat the Red Bulls 2-0 in Harrison, N.J. Charlotte (7-6-4), which is unbeaten in four straight overall, snapped a three-game road losing streak and won at Sports Illustrated Stadium for the first time.

The Red Bulls (6-7-4) played a man down after **Adri Mehmeti** was shown his second yellow card in stoppage time.

MLB: Cease dominates Red Sox in Blue Jays win

Dylan Cease took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and finished with a one-hit complete game and the Blue Jays cooled off the Red Sox 6-0 Saturday afternoon in Boston. It was just the second loss in 18 games for the Red Sox.

The Red Sox later on Saturday traded left-hander **Connelly Early** to the Nationals for infielder **Curtis Mead** according to ESPN. Early, 24, was 7-5 for the Red Sox with a 3.44 ERA in 17 starts.

● In Miami, **Ty France** drove in three runs and the Padres extended the Marlins' losing streak to 11 with a 7-2 win.

● In Detroit, **Nick Loftin** hit a tiebreaking home run in the ninth inning as the Royals rallied for a 3-2 victory over the Tigers. **Salvador Perez** hit his franchise record 318th home run to surpass the mark set by **George Brett**, who held the record for 40 years.

● In Baltimore, **Dylan Beavers** singled home a run in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Orioles a 3-2 win over the Braves.

ETC: Joshua storms back to stop Prenga

Former two-time world champion **Anthony Joshua** recovered from two knockdowns to knock out **Kristian Prenga** in the second round of a dramatic non-title heavyweight fight on Saturday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The comeback also possibly saved an all-British showdown between Joshua and **Tyson Fury**. Joshua's manager **Eddie Hearn** claims his fighter and Fury have signed a contract to meet for the first time later this year, but on condition they came through warmup bouts this weekend.

● PGA Tour rookie **Jackson Koivun** shot a 61 in the third round of the 3M Open in Blaine, Minn., to take a three-stroke lead at 20 under par, setting a tournament record with a 28 on the back nine at the TPC Twin Cities.]

● **Lucas Herbert** maintained his lead through three rounds of LIV Golf United Kingdom and will carry a three-shot advantage into the final round.

Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series Brickyard 400 presented by PPG Lineup
After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Indianapolis Motor Speedway; Speedway, Ind.; Lap length: 2.50 miles; (Car number in parentheses)

1. (77) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 186.598 mph.
2. (7) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 186.382.
3. (45) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 186.077.
4. (54) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 185.966.
5. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 185.835.
6. (71) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 185.762.
7. (67) Corey Heim, Toyota, 185.456.
8. (48) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 185.368.
9. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 185.345.
10. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 185.315.
11. (19) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 185.269.
12. (41) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 185.265.
13. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 185.197.
14. (43) Erik Jones, Toyota, 185.060.
15. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 184.991.
16. (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 184.896.
17. (42) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 184.877.
18. (35) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 184.782.
19. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 184.699.

F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Lineup
After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Hungaroring; Budapest, Hungary.; Lap length: 4.38 kilometers; Third session

1. Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 1 minute, 17.207 seconds.
2. Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Ferrari, 1:17.219.
3. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 1:17.445.
4. Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italy, Mercedes, 1:17.479.
5. Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 1:17.684.
6. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 1:17.725.
7. George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 1:17.760.
8. Isack Hadjar, France, Red Bull Racing, 1:17.856.
9. Arvid Lindblad, Great Britain, Racing Bulls, 1:18.281.
10. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Audi F1 Team, 1:18.686.

Tennis

ATP World Tour Generali Open
At Tennis Stadium Kitzbuhel; Kitzbuhel, Austria; Purse: Euro612,620; Surface: Red clay; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Championship
Quentin Halys, France, def. Alexander Bublik (1), Kazakhstan, 6-4, 7-6 (6).

ATP World Tour Millennium Estoril Open
At Clube de Tenis do Estoril ; Estoril, Portugal; Purse: Euro612,620; Surface: Red clay; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Semifinals
Luca Van Assche, France, def. Hugo Gaston, France, 6-4, 7-5.
Alexander Blockx (4), Belgium, def. Luciano Darderi (2), Italy, 5-7, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5).

WTA Livesport Prague Open
At TK Sparta Praha; Prague; Purse: $283,347; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles - Semifinals
Daria Snigur (8), Ukraine, def. Tereza Valentova (5), Czechia, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Lilli Tagger, Austria, def. Barbora Krejcikova (2), Czechia, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (4).

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Senior Officer (9th)
Lock Record: 6 for 13 (46%)
Meet Record: 33/141 $216.78

1 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds making two turns on the turf in the Sunday opener. Most making their career debuts. Our order of finish Canadian-bred **BUNYAN** (Attard/J Ortiz/Hard Spun), **SHOWA** (Ward/Irad/Constitution), **KIPROS** (Handal/Davis/Oscar Performance), **JERSEY GUY** (Giddings Carmouche/Nashville) and **HIGH OFFICIAL** (Pletcher/Prat/Not This Time).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Kipros,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Handal	8-1
2	Geneva Lake,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Proctor	4-1
3	Harbaugh,123	J Ortiz	5-x-x	Casse	6-1
4	High Official,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	7-2
5	Le Patron,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	12-1
6	Showa,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Ward	3-1
7	Blue Law,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Mott	12-1
8	Jersey Guy,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Giddings	4-1
9	Arequipe,123	M Franco	3-x-x	Sano	10-1
10	Bunyan,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Attard	9-2
11	Bazooka,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Delgado	12-1
12	Djokovic,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
13	Police Chief,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	15-1
14	Iron Confessor,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Green	6-1

2 — 5 1/2 fur(T); $78,000; alw; 4up

Dancin' with **VACATION DANCE** again. He's left us 3 lengths short twice at the Spa this summer. Raced wide in both. Runs for new connections Noda/Franco. **SON OF A BIRCH** is 2 for 22 on turf but 2 lengths shy in the Elusive Quality, last sprint start. Blinkers on. **SHEFFLIN** makes seasonal debut for Maker. 1 for 5 last year. The win at Saratoga, this distance. We will wait.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Billionaires Row(L),123	R Santana, Jr	6-11-6	Trombetta	8-1
2	Fluid Situation(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	9-3-9	Maker	6-1
3	Trust Issues(L),123	R Silvera	3-1-1	Charlerie	20-1
4	Vacation Dance(L),123	M Franco	5-6-6	Noda	9-2
5	Son of a Birch(L),121	K Carmouche	5-4-3	Falcone	5-2
6	Shefflin(L),123	F Prat	5-1-5	Maker	3-1
7	Doctor Jeff(L),121	J Rodriguez	4-3-4	Magee	8-1
8	Niagara Skyline(L),123	J Ortiz	6-2-6	Abreu	6-1
9	Kid Billy(L),123	Rider TBA	11-3-2	Rodriguez	4-1
10	Mischievous M(L),123	M Franco	2-4-5	Kantarmaci	3-1

3 — 1 1/8 miles; $78,000; alw; 3up(f)

Back-to-back wins for **KATIE KING**. Both at a mile; latest at Finger Lakes. Gets Carmouche back but can she get another furlong? Value play over **DONT BE SALTY**. A win and a thisclose 2nd before shipping from Churchill. Ran 3rd lone start at this longer distance. **BEIRA** scored at Churchill, then last of 5 at the Big A. Not sure she wants 9 furlongs right now. **ROYAL BOBBIE** is the only lady proven at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Beira(L),126	J Ortiz	5-1-3	R Dutrow	4-1
2	Don't Be Salty(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-3	LaRose	3-1
3	Kyle's Mom(L),126	D Davis	3-5-1	Noda	9-2
4	Racing Colors(L),126	H Harkie	3-10-5	Follett	10-1
5	Angel Bella(L),126	T Gaffalione	4-3-4	Beckman	4-1
6	Bourbon N Lace(L),126	M Rowland	2-3-3	Gorham	12-1
7	Katie King(L),126	K Carmouche	1-1-4	Ferraro	8-1
8	Royal Bobbie(L),126	F Prat	2-3-3	Rice	5-1

4 — 1 mile; $76,000; clm($45,000); 4up

The **BIG BLUE LINE** goes turf to dirt for Guerrero. 0 for 6 this year. Midpack 4th racing for 75k last dirt start. **EMIRATES ROAD** was 2nd best, this distance at Aqueduct. Won handily, same distance in March. Prat on the M/L favorite. **NOTED** won narrowly at Laurel in April but 3rd of 4 at Parx last out. Value's up; Gutierrez up. **FORT NELSON** is 2 for 3 racing a mile.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Noted(L),123	R Gutierrez	3-10-1	Padilla	15-1
2	Fort Nelson(L),123	K Carmouche	6-5-1	Rice	7-2
3	Emirates Road(L),123	F Prat	2-6-1	Maker	5-2
4	Alternate Reality(L),121	J Ortiz	4-7-6	Sharp	6-1
5	Frizzante(L),121	J Rodriguez	3-4-3	Schauer	8-1
6	Celestial Glaze(L),121	R Santana, Jr	6-3-4	Rodriguez	15-1
7	Castle Chaos(L),123	M Franco	4-1-2	Kantarmaci	8-1
8	Big Blue Line(L),121	R Silvera	2-5-6	Guerrero	8-1
9	Counterspy(L),123	L Saez	4-4-2	R Dutrow	9-2

5 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $105,000; alw; 3up(f)

LIVIN THE BREEZE makes her 3YO debut for Abreu. 1 for 3 as a 2YO. Stretch runner is well spotted for return and gets a pace to chase. Does she need a race? Irad will be the first to know. **LADY ROSE** loads off an optional claiming win if we're off turf. **FULL POUR** made turf debut in May and turned in a disappointing 6th after racing wide. Better 2nd time around the green. Exotics value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	She Takes Cash(L),126	J Alvarado	3-3-2	Englehart	4-1
2	Charlottesuniverse(L),121	E Zayas	4-1-8	Casse	6-1
3	Fedupwiththefed(L),126	D Davis	6-1-4	Donk	12-1
4	Full Pour(L),126	T Gaffalione	6-4-4	Hennig	20-1
5	Tongue Twister(L),126	C Elliott	4-7-6	Brion	6-1
6	Last Glory(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-6-3	D'Alessandro	15-1
7	Livin the Breeze(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	1-5-3	Abreu	5-2
8	Fabulous Fox(L),126	J Rodriguez	5-5-5	Ferraro	15-1
9	Marvelous Madison(L),126	F Prat	10-7-6	Abreu	7-2
10	Miami Style(L),121	R Gutierrez	1-2-3	Orseno	30-1
11	Lady Rose(L),121	J Lezcano	1-2-1	Rice	7-5
12	Baseball Lady(L),121	J Ortiz	5-1-2	Rice	3-1

6 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $62,000; mdn clm($55,000); 3up(f)

Time for **MAJESTIC MOONLIGHT** to shine. 0 for 3 on grass but should respond moving lower. Back-to-back wins for Abreu/Irad? **SAMARTINA** fell to this height and missed by a neck. Can move forward 2nd off the layoff, same distance for Clement. **OUTRO** Dirt to turf for Walsh. Ran well for 2nd on grass this distance at the Fair Grounds.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Playing Games(L),121	F Prat	4-7-x	C Brown	5-1
2	Majestic Moonlight(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	5-3-8	Abreu	6-1
3	Pay the Bills(FR)(L),126	K Davis	7-8-6	Metivier	50-1
4	Sweet Mackenzie(L),126	C Elliott	5-4-8	Antonucci	15-1
5	Beside You(L),121	J Rodriguez	4-10-4	Bartkowski	12-1
6	Outro(L),121	T Gaffalione	2-5-2	Walsh	9-2
7	Samartina(FR)(L),121	R Santana, Jr	2-7-5	Clement	7-2
8	Devilish Grin(L),121	M Franco	6-2-10	Green	6-1
9	Riyah Al Nil(L),121	S Bridgmohan	5-6-4	Seyler	50-1
10	Addagirl Addie(L),126	O Hrndz Mreno	5-8-4	Davis	30-1
11	Just Tell Anne(L),121	D Davis	4-5-7	Handal	6-1
12	Mappy(L),121	J Alvarado	2-3-2	Weaver	12-1
13	Sliceaway(L),121	K Davis	3-6-2	Zito	30-1
14	River Empress(L),121	K Carmouche	6-9-4	Giddings	8-1
15	Free Spin Kim(L),121	J Davis	7-7-x	Breed	50-1

7 — 7 fur; $78,000; alw; 3up

Wide open. **ART FAIR** brings a modest 2 race winning streak from Aqueduct. Inches higher for DePaz. **WILLINTORISKITALL** was 3rd making 2 turms. Route to sprint for Dutrow. Gate-to-wire winner racing a mile earlier this year. Gets J Ortiz back. Dutrow also saddles the speedy **EGYPTIAN**. Won a photo finish in latest. 2nd best at this distance previously. Rider change to Saez. **DISCOTHEQUE** finally graduated (17th start), but repeat in cards, same distance. **SOUTH BEND TOM** exits a close 2nd. 0 for 2 at this shorter distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Momentum Files(L),126	C Elliott	1-5-4	Rodriguez	8-1
2	Hot Property(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-3-3	Rice	8-1
3	Willintoriskitall(L),126	J Ortiz	3-4-5	R Dutrow	7-2
4	Golden Symphony(L),126	M Franco	2-1-4	Rice	6-1
5	Conniving(L),126	K Davis	4-4-6	Keithan	30-1
6	Discotheque(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-2	Sweezey	6-1
7	South Bend Tom(L),126	F Prat	2-4-7	Stall	9-2
8	Master Freud(L),126	D Rivera	3-10-6	Arriaga	10-1
9	Beary Funny(L),126	R Silvera	3-4-6	Rodriguez	20-1
10	Art Fair(L),126	K Carmouche	1-1-7	De Paz	8-1
11	Egyptian(L),126	L Saez	1-2-4	R Dutrow	10-1

8 — 6 fur; $250,000; Honorable Miss; 4up(f)

The feature is the Grade 2 Honorable Miss. **GRAND JOB** is the 1/2 favorite but she was a couple of noses short in both the Grade 1 Madison and Bed O Roses. Pulled down triple digit figs in defeat. Holds on for Mott. **HAULIN ICE** is 8 for 12 at this distance after a close 3rd in a 100k at Delaware. Won a pair of stakes at Oaklawn earlier this year. Prat picks her up for Joseph. **GOING STEADY** (Churchill), **MAIDA** (Laurel) and **KAPPA KAPPA** (Parx) move to the graded stake off victories. Deep closer Going Steady offers best value but needs it fast up front.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Maida,122	S Russell	1-6-1	Russell	5-1
2	Kappa Kappa,124	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-6	Reid	10-1
3	Striker Has Dial,122	R Santana, Jr	1-1-3	De Paz	10-1
4	Haulin Ice,122	F Prat	3-6-1	Joseph	4-1
5	Going Steady,120	T Gaffalione	1-2-6	Medina	30-1
6	Grand Job,124	J Alvarado	2-2-1	Mott	1-2
7	Do Gooder,120	E Zayas	8-6-4	Antonucci	30-1

9 — 6 1/2 fur; $130,000; alw; 4up

Brad Cox' **SENIOR OFFICER** appears well spotted to stretch his winning streak to 3. Stalker made it 2 in a row at the Spa in June. **TIP TOP THOMAS** makes 4YO debut for Pletcher. 3 for 5 last year including the Indiana Derby. Can Prat hold off top pick? **TARANTINO** scored racing for 50k but a vanilla 6th with comparable company next out. Exotics value. **BRING THE SMOKE** has won 2 straight as well. Both by a 1/2 length, including the Maryland Sprint. Contender. **SACROSANCT** has won 2 of last 3 on dirt and is now 6 for 9.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Stars and Strides(L),123	J Alvarado	8-8-8	Mott	12-1
2	Bring the Smoke(L),123	T Gaffalione	1-1-2	Beckman	8-1
3	Tarantino(L),123	R Santana, Jr	6-1-7	Jacobson	15-1
4	Senior Officer(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	1-1-2	Cox	9-5
5	Sacrosanct(L),123	M Franco	2-1-2	Rice	6-1
6	Ignite the Light(L),123	L Saez	7-1-2	R Dutrow	15-1
7	Over and Ollie(L),123	J Ortiz	2-2-7	R Dutrow	10-1
8	Tip Top Thomas(L),123	F Prat	3-1-1	Pletcher	7-2
9	Acoustic Ave(L),123	J Lezcano	4-2-5	Rice	8-1
10	Light Man(L),121	K Carmouche	2-4-4	Levine	20-1

10 — 1 3/8 miles(T); $115,000; mdn; 3up(f)

PHANTOM BLUE makes turf debut for Walden. Ghostzapper filly may relish this marathon distance. Franco on the wildcard; blinkers off. **WHITETHORN** Dirt to turf for Pletcher. 0 for 2 on grass. 2nd best in both. **AMERICAN DEBUTANTE** is 0 for 5 on turf but a close 3rd at the distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Eenymeanymightymo(L),126	L Saez	2-6-4	Wilkes	12-1
2	American Debutante(L),126	T Gaffalione	8-3-3	Walsh	8-1
3	Raging Bloom(L),121	C Elliott	5-6-x	McPeek	30-1
4	Isadora Duncan(IRE)(L),121	J Alvarado	10-2-2	Mott	12-1
5	Don't Look Now(L),126	J Lezcano	3-6-4	Arnold II	12-1
6	Abundant Love(L),126	E Zayas	5-7-2	Trombetta	15-1
7	Whitethorn(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-2	Pletcher	2-1
8	Onehotmess(L),126	J Ortiz	2-7-3	Attard	12-1
9	Mary Lois(IRE)(L),121	F Prat	4-3-2	C Brown	6-1
10	Phantom Blue(L),121	M Franco	2-2-3	Walden	5-2
11	Coinvestment(L),121	M Franco	5-x-x	C Brown	10-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Another fun recap. Ms Liu (7-1) broke first but finished last. Blackjack (6-1) dueled on the lead but was eased. Always a Runner (9-5) ran second to Counting Stars in the Coaching Club American Oaks. Loss of -$54.

Couldn't decide. So we will play all four on Sunday. Bet $4 across the board on Katie King in Race 3, Big Blue Line in Race 4 and Art Fair in Race 7. And $30 to win on Senior Officer in Race 9. Total bet: $66. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-6 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

5	Introssus (SntnJr.)	16.54	7.70	4.98
8	Mysticious (Saez)		11.14	8.52
4	Lucerra (Zayas)			10.10

● $1 Exacta (5-8) $138.29 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-8-4) $385.26

SECOND-1 mile; $70,000; alw; 3up (f&m)

3	Pwr f Wmn (OrtzJr.)	3.54	2.52
1	Lady Wsdom (SantanJr.)		3.72

Scr: Timia, Sabby Sunset, Spirit of Esther, Lady Delilah

● $1 Daily Double (5-3) $25.04 ● $1 Exacta (3-1) $5.81 ● $1 Quinella (1-3) $4.04 ● $1 Consolation Double (5-4/6/7) $8.21

Winner picked by Vic C

THIRD-6 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO

9	Grnd Yupon (Ortz)	6.46	3.82	2.64
10	Belzoni (Alvarado)		8.20	5.44
6	Foolin (Ortiz,Jr.)			3.60

Scr: Silverus, Ferrum

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (5-4/6/7-9) $22.83 ● $1 Pick 3 (5-3-9) $51.00 ● $1 Daily Double (3-9) $7.71 ● $1 Exacta (9-10) $25.39 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-10-6-8) $64.49 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-10-6) $68.20

FOURTH-1 mile; $105,000; alc; 3up

5	Inspghtfchrl (Ortz)	7.84	4.08	2.66
3	Honoree (Ortiz,Jr.)		3.28	2.42
2	Sir Oscar (Franco)			2.88

Scr: Solo Empire, Resurgo, Who's Your Zaddy

● $1 Pick 3 (3-9-5) $24.76 ● $1 Daily Double (9-5) $14.05 ● $1 Exacta (5-3) $11.91 ● $1 Quinella (3-5) $5.90 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-3-2-1) $21.35 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-3-2) $15.09

FIFTH-1 1/16 mile; $120,000; alw; 3YO

11	Chmbrsvll (OrtzJr.)	21.64	8.58	5.38
5	Go Grey (Ortiz)		7.40	4.60
6	King's Remark (IRE) (Davis)			3.96

Scr: ChickenDance,CMcGriff, Minorinconvennce,IntotheLight,NuckChorris

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (9-5-4) $11.25 ● $1 Pick 3 (9-5-11) $112.23 ● $1 Double (5-11) $43.32 ● $1 Exacta (11-5) $63.76 ● $0.1 Superfecta (11-5-6-9) $206.25 ● $0.5 Trifecta (11-5-6) $221.89 ● $1 Consolation Double (5-4) $3.78

SIXTH-1 mile 1 fur; $125,000; alw; 3up

2	Wynstock (OrtzJr.)	12.06	4.10	2.84
8	Emerging Market (Prat)		2.28	2.10
1	Dreamlike (Carmouche)			2.74

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (5-4-2) $21.65 ● $1 Pick 3 (5-11-2) $222.03 ● $1 Daily Double (11-2) $54.72 ● $1 Exacta (2-8) $13.94 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-8-1-4) $13.62 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-8-1) $19.89

SEVENTH-1 mile; $105,000; alc; 3up

4	Jack's World (Prt)	6.54	4.18	2.98
8	Sammy C Note (Franco)		8.22	5.80
6	Stormy Birthday (Rodriguez)			14.46

Scr: BeachInvasion,McDiesel,Newlyn,Egyptn

● $1 Pick 3 (11-2-4) $213.49 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (5-11-2-4) $382.66 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (9-5-11-2-4) $1157.50 ● $1 Daily Double (2-4) $22.20 ● $1 Exacta (4-8) $29.22 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-8-6-7) $242.68 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-8-6) $232.50

EIGHTH-1 1/16 mile; $120,000; alw; 3YO F

2	Crssvr Cptl (FR) (Prt)	11.26	7.24	4.76
4	Soloist (Ortiz)		5.92	3.60
6	Vekoma View (Velazquez)			9.58

Scr: Pashmina

● $1 Pick 3 (2-4-2) $106.93 ● $1 Daily Double (4-2) $23.05 ● $1 Exacta (2-4) $27.87 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-4-6-9) $175.72 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-4-6) $217.82

NINTH-6 fur; $400,000; Vanderbilt; 4up

8	Built (Ortiz,Jr.)	4.40	2.68	2.10
6	Hymn (Santana,Jr.)		3.98	2.34
1	Damon's Mound (Alvarado)			2.10

Scr: Just Beat the Odds, Crazy Mason

● $1 Pick 3 (4-2-8) $41.08 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (2-4-2-8) $149.29 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (11-2-4-2-8) $1423.12 ● $1 Daily Double (2-8) $14.63 ● $1 Exacta (8-6) $7.26 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-6-1-7) $6.83 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-6-1) $7.18

Winner picked by Vic C

TENTH-1 ¹/₈ miles; $500,000; CCAOaks; 3YF

1	Cntng Strs (OrtzJr.)	4.08	2.26	2.10
6	Always a Runner (Ortiz)		2.76	2.16
5	Measure (Franco)			3.80

Scr: La Rascasse, Directive

● $1 Pick 3 (2-8-1) $23.75 ● $1 Double (8-1) $4.42 ● $1 Exacta (1-6) $3.27 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-6-5-8) $2.17 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-6-5) $6.35

ELEVENTH-5½ fur; $105,000; alc; 3up (f&m)

13	Oklhm Smk (Ortz)	17.70	9.30	5.74
3	Tuthilltown (Davis)		5.80	4.02
12	Fairy Godmother (Ortiz,Jr.)			3.70

Scr: Daniella Marie, Sunshine Lily, Quick Power Nap, Sinead

● $1 Pick 3 (8-1-13) $39.85 ● $1 Daily Double (1-13) $14.21 ● $1 Exacta (13-3) $52.15 ● $0.1 Superfecta (13-3-12-7) $78.80 ● $0.5 Trifecta (13-3-12) $124.55

TWELFTH-1 1/16m; $56,000; md cl($50,0); 3p

7	Leave Me (OrtzJr.)	5.02	3.52	2.76
4	Gilbane (Franco)		5.60	3.98
9	Kuleana (Alvarado)			4.12

Scr: Big Frosty, Portadown Lad, Nonno Joe, Bourboncentric, Dinghy Bar, Beau Cheval, Rossbeigh

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-13-1) $16.26 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-13-7) $46.35 ● $1 Double (13-7) $23.29 ● $1 Exacta (7-4) $10.16 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-4-9-3) $80.65 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-4-9) $20.57 ● $1 Consolation Double (13-1) $7.54

Winner picked by Vic C.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	61	43	.587	—	—	5-5	W-2	37-15	24-28
Yankees	59	45	.567	2	+6	7-3	W-3	26-23	33-22
Boston	53	50	.515	7½	+½	8-2	L-1	24-29	29-21
Baltimore	51	54	.486	10½	2½	7-3	W-1	29-26	22-28
Toronto	48	57	.457	13½	5½	3-7	W-1	26-30	22-27

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	54	49	.524	—	—	6-4	L-2	31-19	23-30
Cleveland	54	52	.509	1½	—	4-6	L-4	27-26	27-26
Minnesota	52	54	.491	3½	2	5-5	W-1	27-26	25-28
Detroit	50	55	.476	5	3½	6-4	L-1	29-24	21-31
Kansas City	44	62	.415	11½	10	6-4	W-1	26-27	18-35

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	53	51	.510	—	—	5-5	W-2	27-24	26-27
Houston	52	54	.491	2	2	6-4	W-5	26-27	26-27
Seattle	51	54	.486	2½	2½	4-6	L-4	30-23	21-31
Athletics	44	60	.423	9	9	3-7	L-1	20-30	24-30
Los Angeles	41	64	.390	12½	12½	3-7	L-3	24-28	17-36

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 3, Philadelphia 1
Kansas City 3, Detroit 2
Toronto 6, Boston 0
San Francisco 9, L.A. Angels 2
Tampa Bay 3, Cleveland 0
Minnesota 2, Athletics 0
Baltimore 3, Atlanta 2
Texas 7, Seattle 1
Houston 4, White Sox 1

Sunday

Yankees at Philadelphia, 7:20
Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 12:15
Atlanta at Baltimore, 1:35
Toronto at Boston, 1:35
Kansas City at Detroit, 1:40
Athletics at Minnesota, 2:10
Houston at White Sox, 2:10
Seattle at Texas, 2:35
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	61	43	.587	—	—	7-3	L-1	32-20	29-23
Philadelphia	56	49	.533	5½	+1	4-6	L-4	27-27	29-22
Washington	53	52	.505	8½	2	5-5	W-1	21-32	32-20
Miami	52	53	.495	9½	3	0-10	L-11	31-22	21-31
Mets	43	62	.410	18½	12	3-7	L-3	21-30	22-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	65	39	.625	—	—	6-4	W-1	35-20	30-19
Chicago	59	45	.567	6	+4½	7-3	W-2	30-22	29-23
St. Louis	53	51	.510	12	1½	3-7	W-1	27-28	26-23
Pittsburgh	53	52	.505	12½	2	5-5	L-3	27-26	26-26
Cincinnati	48	55	.466	16½	6	5-5	L-1	22-28	26-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	67	38	.638	—	—	6-4	W-4	31-19	36-19
Arizona	55	50	.524	12	—	7-3	L-1	31-22	24-28
San Diego	52	53	.495	15	3	5-5	W-2	27-24	25-29
San Francisco	44	60	.423	22½	10½	5-5	W-2	24-25	20-35
Colorado	42	64	.396	25½	13½	3-7	L-1	24-29	18-35

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 3, Philadelphia 1
L.A. Dodgers 4, **Mets** 3
San Francisco 9, L.A. Angels 2
Washington 5, Arizona 3
San Diego 7, Miami 2
Cubs 11, Pittsburgh 0
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 0
Baltimore 3, Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 8, Colorado 5

Sunday

L.A. Dodgers at **Mets**, 1:40
Yankees at Philadelphia, 7:20
Arizona at Washington, 1:35
Atlanta at Baltimore, 1:35
Cubs at Pittsburgh, 1:35
San Diego at Miami, 1:40
Colorado at Milwaukee, 2:10
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 2:15
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05

PGA Tour Schedule

May 21-24 — THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson (Wyndham Clark)
May 28-31 — Charles Schwab Challenge (Russell Henley)
June 4-7 — the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (J.T. Poston)
June 11-14 — RBC Canadian Open (Bud Cauley)
June 18-21 — U.S. Open (Wyndham Clark)
June 25-29 — Travelers Championship (Viktor Hovland)
July 2-5 — John Deere Classic (Chris Gotterup)
July 9-12 — Genesis Scottish Open (Tom Kim)
July 9-12 — ISCO Championship (Steven Fisk)
July 16-19 — The Open Championship (Ryan Fox)
July 16-19 — Corales Puntacana Championship (Stefano Mazzoli)
July 23-26 — 3M Open, Blaine, Minn.
July 30-Aug. 2 — Rocket Classic, Detroit
Aug. 6-9 — Wyndham Championship, Greensboro, N.C.
Aug. 13-16 — FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis, Tenn.
Aug. 20-23 — BMW Championship, Saint Louis, Mo.
Aug. 27-30 — TOUR Championship, Atlanta

Yankees 3, Phillies 1

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rosario 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.229
McMahon ph-3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.271
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.259
Bellinger lf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.259
Schuemann lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Grisham cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Domínguez rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.233
Chisholm 2b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.223
Caballero ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.241
Wells c	2	2	1	1	1	0	.166
Totals	**34**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**11**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.242
Schwarber dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.251
Harper 1b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.251
Bohm 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.221
Sosa lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.212
De La Cruz rf	3	0	2	0	0	1	.600
Crawford ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Realmuto c	3	0	2	0	1	0	.229
Stott 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.246
D.Hill cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Marsh ph-cf-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.287
Totals	**32**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**2**	**7**	

Yankees	**001 001 100 —**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Philadelphia	**100 000 000 —**	**1**	**7**	**2**

E: Bohm 2 (8). **LOB:** New York 5, Philadelphia 8. **2B:** Bellinger (21), Schwarber (12). **HR:** Wells (7), off Keller; Domínguez (6), off Alvarado. **RBIs:** Wells (14), Bellinger (53), Domínguez (13), Harper (61). **SF:** Harper. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 3 (McMahon, Grisham 2); Philadelphia 4 (D.Hill, Sosa, Bohm, Stott). **RISP:** New York 1 for 5; Philadelphia 0 for 7. **Runners moved up:** Wells, Harper. **GIDP:** Harper. **DP:** New York 1 (Caballero, Goldschmidt).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Weathers, W, 4-7	5.2	6	1	1	1	7	97	4.25
Chivilli, H, 1	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	6	0.77
Blackburn, H, 2	2.0	0	0	0	1	0	24	1.93
Bednar, S, 20-22	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.42

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mayza	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	20	3.83
Keller	3.0	2	1	1	0	3	39	3.00
Backhus, L, 1-1	0.2	0	1	1	1	2	12	6.19
Johnson	0.1	2	0	0	0	0	11	5.74
Alvarado	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	14	6.16
Bowlan	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	2.78
Duran	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	19	1.29

T: 2:40. **A:** 44,562 (42,901).

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 0

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf-lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.290
V.Guerrero 1b	4	1	3	2	1	0	.267
Okamoto 3b	5	1	1	0	0	2	.226
Springer dh	5	1	2	3	0	1	.229
Varsho cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.247
Clement 2b	4	0	3	1	0	0	.298
Piñango lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Straw ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Giménez ss	4	1	2	0	0	2	.227
Valenzuela c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Totals	**39**	**6**	**15**	**6**	**1**	**9**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.265
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Abreu rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.253
Contreras 1b	2	0	0	0	1	2	.291
Yoshida dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Durbin 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.233
Duran lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.192
Monasterio ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Wong c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Totals	**27**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**12**	

Toronto	**005 000 001 —**	**6**	**15**	**0**
Boston	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**1**	**0**

LOB: Toronto 7, Boston 3. **2B:** Lukes 2 (11), Clement (24), Monasterio (16). **HR:** Springer (11), off Gray. **RBIs:** V.Guerrero 2 (44), Springer 3 (30), Clement (33). **SB:** Clement (4). **CS:** Contreras (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 3 (Piñango, Springer, Valenzuela); Boston 1 (Rafaela). **RISP:** Toronto 4 for 10; Boston 0 for 3. **Runners moved up:** Lukes. **LIDP:** Piñango. **GIDP:** Okamoto. **DP:** Boston 2 (Rafaela, Monasterio, Rafaela; Durbin, Seigler, Contreras).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease, W, 7-5	9.0	1	0	0	3	12	120	2.46

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, L, 12-2	5.0	10	5	5	0	3	75	2.78
Gamboa	4.0	5	1	1	1	6	63	2.08

T: 2:25. **A:** 36,902 (37,755).

Dodgers 4, Mets 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Pages cf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.266
Freeman 1b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.299
Muncy 3b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.259
Betts ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.232
Edman 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.330
Tucker rf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.241
Hernández lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.247
Rushing c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.243
Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**9**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing lf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Lindor ss	3	0	0	0	2	1	.224
Bichette 3b	5	0	2	1	0	0	.255
Benge rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.260
Robert cf	2	1	0	0	2	1	.210
Polanco dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.154
Semien 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Baty 1b	3	1	1	0	0	2	.224
Taylor ph	1	0	1	2	0	0	.234
Young 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Alvarez c	2	0	1	0	2	1	.260
Totals	**33**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**6**	**11**	

Los Angeles	**003 010 000 —**	**4**	**8**	**0**
Mets	**000 010 020 —**	**3**	**6**	**1**

E: Baty (7). **LOB:** Los Angeles 6, New York 10. **2B:** Hernández (11), Taylor (8). **HR:** Tucker (9), off McLean. **RBIs:** Tucker (51), Pages 2 (69), Bichette (52), Taylor 2 (20). **SB:** Edman (3). **CS:** Edman (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 2 (Muncy 2); New York 5 (Ewing, Robert, Benge 3). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 7; New York 2 for 11.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, W, 11-6	6.0	5	1	1	3	5	100	2.72
Vesia, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	2.55
Henriquez, H, 7	0.2	0	2	2	1	2	20	2.81
T.Scott, H, 7	0.1	1	0	0	1	1	6	2.32
Stewart, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.03

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McLean, L, 7-7	6.0	7	4	2	2	7	96	3.32
Duarte	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	26	0.00
Brazobán	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.70

T: 2:48. **A:** 36,356 (42,136).

Giants 9, Angels 2

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Peraza ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Trout cf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.237
Lowe rf	0	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Grissom 2b	4	0	1	1	1	1	.255
Soler dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.201
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.282
Adell rf	2	0	1	0	1	1	.243
Meckler lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.297
Guzman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Siri lf-cf	3	2	2	0	1	0	.281
O'Hoppe c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.216
Totals	**34**	**2**	**9**	**1**	**5**	**6**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.326
J.Rodriguez ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Ramos lf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.262
Eldridge dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.263
Cavanaugh ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Devers 1b	4	2	3	4	0	0	.249
Koss 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Schmitt 3b-1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.272
Lee rf	3	1	2	3	0	1	.302
McCray rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Adames ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.225
Gilbert cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.235
Susac c	3	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Totals	**35**	**9**	**11**	**9**	**2**	**8**	

Los Angeles	**000 000 101 —**	**2**	**9**	**1**
San Francisco	**005 400 00x —**	**9**	**11**	**0**

E: Siri (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 11, San Francisco 6. **2B:** Siri (5), Adames (23), Lee (22), Devers (27). **HR:** Lee (6), off Johnson; Devers (22), off Suter. **RBIs:** Grissom (41), Devers 4 (60), Schmitt (55), Lee 3 (37), Arraez (38). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 5 (Soler 3, Grissom 2); San Francisco 4 (Gilbert, Susac 3). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 8; San Francisco 5 for 15. **Runners moved up:** Trout. **GIDP:** Trout. **DP:** San Francisco 1 (Adames, Arraez, Devers).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Johnson, L, 2-5	3.1	8	8	8	1	4	69	7.34
Suter	2.2	2	1	1	0	4	44	4.42
Yates	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	21	3.65
Heineman	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.00

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ray, W, 9-6	6.0	6	0	0	2	5	80	3.16
Beck	2.0	1	1	1	1	0	29	6.39
Winn	1.0	2	1	1	2	1	24	3.38

T: 2:32. **A:** 39,102 (41,915).

Royals 3, Tigers 2

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	0	2	0	0	1	.241
Thomas cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.229
Caglianone rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Perez dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	.210
Pasquantino 1b	4	1	3	0	0	0	.234
Loftin 3b	3	1	1	1	0	2	.250
Massey 2b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.272
Collins lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Velazquez ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Marte ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Tolbert ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.317
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**5**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Keith 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.254
McGonigle ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Torres 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.277
Carpenter dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.210
Dingler ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Greene lf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.285
Lee 3b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.273
McKinstry rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Vierling cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Rogers c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.161
Torkelson ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.204
Totals	**34**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**5**	

Kansas City	**010 000 101 —**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Detroit	**010 100 000 —**	**2**	**8**	**1**

E: Torres (2). **LOB:** Kansas City 5, Detroit 7. **2B:** Keith (11), Greene (22), Lee (9). **HR:** Perez (15), off Finnegan; Loftin (5), off Waguespack; Lee (6), off Wacha. **RBIs:** Massey (34), Perez (44), Loftin (34), Lee 2 (23). **SF:** Massey. **S:** Loftin. **RISP:** Kansas City 0 for 2; Detroit 1 for 11.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha	7.0	6	2	2	2	3	96	3.60
Lynch, W, 4-2	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	2.08
Lange, S, 10-12	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	16	6.00

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mize	6.0	3	1	1	0	3	85	2.70
Finngan, BS, 2-9	0.1	2	1	1	0	1	7	2.54
Holton	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	2.87
Wagespck, L, 0-1	1.2	1	1	1	0	1	24	1.65

T: 2:22. **A:** 32,867 (41,083).

Padres 7, Marlins 2

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis dh	4	1	0	0	1	0	.280
Cronenworth 2b	3	2	1	1	2	1	.206
Machado 3b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.207
France 1b	4	1	2	3	0	1	.283
Merrill cf	4	2	3	0	0	0	.228
Rengifo lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.232
Sheets rf	2	0	0	1	0	0	.213
Bowen rf	1	0	1	2	0	0	.148
Bogaerts ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.218
Fermin c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.166
Totals	**33**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**4**	**3**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lopez ss	2	0	1	1	1	0	.331
Stowers 1b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.230
Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Edwards 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.289
Hicks c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Sanoja 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Conine dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.262
Ruiz rf	2	2	2	0	0	0	.255
Marsee cf	2	0	1	0	1	1	.195
Totals	**28**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**5**	

San Diego	**002 000 131 —**	**7**	**11**	**0**
Miami	**001 000 010 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**

LOB: San Diego 5, Miami 4. **2B:** Merrill 2 (17), Machado (17). **RBIs:** France 3 (46), Sheets (42), Bowen 2 (5), Cronenworth (13), Lopez (47), Stowers (44). **SB:** Lopez (20), Rengifo (4), Ruiz 2 (24), Cronenworth (5). **SF:** Sheets, Lopez. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 2 (Bogaerts, Tatis); Miami 2 (Lopez, Edwards). **RISP:** San Diego 5 for 11; Miami 2 for 5. **Runners moved up:** Rengifo, Hernández. **GIDP:** Bogaerts, Machado, Tatis, Hernández. **DP:** San Diego 2 (Bogaerts, Cronenworth, France; Bogaerts, Sheets); Miami 3 (Lopez, Edwards, Stowers; Lopez, Edwards, Stowers; Lopez, Edwards, Stowers).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Vásquez	2.2	1	1	1	2	0	37	4.68
Sears, W, 3-3	3.1	1	0	0	1	3	55	3.86
Matsui, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.61
Waldron	2.0	3	1	1	0	1	39	7.16

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez, L, 5-8	7.0	7	3	3	1	2	104	3.56
Fulton	2.0	4	4	4	3	1	49	5.25

T: 3:15. **A:** 22,319 (37,446).

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 3

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Carroll rf	3	1	0	0	0	2	.250
Perdomo ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Moreno dh	4	0	1	2	0	0	.311
Marte 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Vargas 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.270
Arenado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Tawa cf	3	1	2	0	0	0	.241
McCann c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.260
Waldschmidt lf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.257
Kepler ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Totals	**30**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.269
Mead 3b	3	1	0	0	2	0	.254
Chaparro 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.222
García ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Abrams ss	4	1	3	3	0	0	.293
Crews rf	1	1	0	0	3	1	.218
Young cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.232
Lile lf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.244
Nuñez 2b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.249
Ruiz c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.272
Totals	**32**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**7**	**6**	

Arizona	**002 000 100 —**	**3**	**6**	**1**
Washington	**004 010 00x —**	**5**	**9**	**0**

E: Marte (2). **LOB:** Arizona 3, Washington 10. **2B:** Tawa (8), Chaparro (5), Abrams (21), Ruiz (20). **3B:** Lile (5). **HR:** Abrams (25), off Bratt. **RBIs:** Moreno 2 (39), McCann (15), Abrams 3 (79), Lile 2 (51). **SB:** Young 2 (13), Abrams (17). **CS:** Abrams (5). **S:** Perdomo. **RISP:** Arizona 2 for 3; Washington 2 for 12. **GIDP:** Arenado, Mead. **DP:** Arizona 1 (Perdomo, Marte, Vargas); Washington 1 (Mead, Nuñez, García).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bratt, L, 0-1	5.0	7	5	5	5	3	92	6.32
Carrillo	2.0	2	0	0	2	2	35	2.25
Clarke	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.30

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Griffin, W, 12-2	6.2	6	3	3	1	2	108	2.76
Yean, H, 1	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	16	0.00
Beeter, S, 9-14	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.82

T: 2:35. **A:** 30,032 (41,376).

Rays 3, Guardians 0

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf-cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Ramírez 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.239
Bazzana dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.242
Rocchio ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Martínez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Manzardo 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Arias 2b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.252
Bailey c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Hedges ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.287
Halpin cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.193
Fry ph-lf	0	0	0	0	1	0	.186
Totals	**31**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**8**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	1	2	0	0	2	.306
Aranda 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.282
Caminero 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.285
Mullins cf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.202
Simpson lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.293
Mesa rf	3	1	1	0	1	2	.227
Palacios 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.234
Walls ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Williamson ss-2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Feduccia c	2	0	1	1	0	0	.233
Totals	**30**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**2**	**9**	

Cleveland	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**5**	**0**
Tampa Bay	**000 021 00x —**	**3**	**9**	**0**

LOB: Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 7. **2B:** Díaz (18), Caminero (17). **RBIs:** Caminero (63), Mullins (32), Feduccia (12). **SF:** Mullins. **S:** Feduccia. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 1 (Martínez); Tampa Bay 4 (Simpson, Díaz, Williamson 2). **RISP:** Cleveland 0 for 1; Tampa Bay 2 for 6. **GIDP:** Bazzana. **DP:** Cleveland 1 (Arias, Manzardo, Arias); Tampa Bay 1 (Williamson, Aranda).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bibee, L, 4-10	6.0	9	3	3	2	5	107	3.89
Dion	2.0	0	0	0	0	4	29	4.58

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinez, W, 10-2	6.0	4	0	0	0	5	84	2.45
Sulser, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.86
Cleavinger, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	18	3.60
Baker, S, 27-30	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	1.60

T: 2:24. **A:** 24,100 (25,025).

Cardinals 7, Reds 0

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.276
Stewart 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Bleday lf	2	0	1	0	2	0	.238
Suárez dh	4	0	0	0	0	4	.210
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.245
Marte rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.184
Friedl cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.171
Arroyo 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Hayes 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.143
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**12**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	3	2	0	0	1	1	.256
Walker rf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.290
Burleson 1b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.285
Herrera c	4	1	2	2	0	1	.242
Nootbaar lf	2	1	0	0	1	0	.242
Fermín lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Winn ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.235
Torres dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	.216
Jordan 3b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.245
Church cf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.225
Totals	**33**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**2**	**6**	

Cincinnati	**000 000 000**	**—**	**0**	**3**	**1**
St. Louis	**100 006 00x**	**—**	**7**	**10**	**0**

E: De La Cruz (9). **LOB:** Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 5. **2B:** Walker (23), Herrera (15). **RBIs:** Burleson (70), Herrera 2 (43), Torres (11), Jordan 2 (22), Church (30). **SB:** Bleday (6). **S:** Church. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 3 (Marte 3); St. Louis 3 (Winn, Burleson, Wetherholt). **RISP:** Cincinnati 0 for 5; St. Louis 5 for 11. **GIDP:** Nootbaar. **DP:** Cincinnati 1 (Arroyo, De La Cruz, Stewart).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene, L, 2-2	5.1	8	7	6	2	3	89	7.06
Moll	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.32
Petty	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	30	4.23

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante, W, 11-6	7.0	2	0	0	1	8	90	3.77
Graceffo	2.0	1	0	0	2	4	38	3.16

T: 2:19. **A:** 33,975 (44,494).

Cubs 11, Pirates 0

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	3	4	3	0	1	.291
Conforto lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Suzuki rf	5	0	1	2	0	4	.266
Busch 1b	6	0	3	2	0	2	.245
Assad p-p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Bregman 3b	5	0	0	0	1	2	.234
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.221
Triantos ph-2b	1	1	1	0	0	0	1.000
Hoerner 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Dean ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Ramirez dh-1b	4	2	2	1	1	1	.295
Swanson ss	4	2	2	1	1	1	.216
Amaya c	4	2	2	2	0	1	.239
Totals	**43**	**11**	**16**	**11**	**4**	**16**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf-lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.304
Gonzales 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.311
Reynolds lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Callihan 1b-p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Valdez rf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.283
O'Hearn 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.278
Cook cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.205
Ozuna dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Ross 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Triolo 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Gonzalez ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Davis c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.176
Totals	**32**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**7**	

Chicago	**000 035 210**	**—**	**11**	**16**	**1**
Pittsburgh	**000 000 000**	**—**	**0**	**5**	**1**

E: Swanson (6), Skenes (1). **LOB:** Chicago 11, Pittsburgh 7. **2B:** Crow-Armstrong 2 (19), Swanson (13), Ramirez (7). **HR:** Crow-Armstrong (23), off Marinaccio. **RBIs:** Crow-Armstrong 3 (59), Suzuki 2 (56), Swanson (60), Amaya 2 (17), Busch 2 (56), Ramirez (12). **SB:** Crow-Armstrong (26), Ramirez (3). **RISP:** Chicago 6 for 17; Pittsburgh 0 for 1.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga, W, 7-8	6.0	4	0	0	1	4	84	3.72
Assad, S, 1-1	3.0	1	0	0	0	3	32	3.86

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes, L, 9-9	5.1	6	5	5	2	11	105	3.65
Mattson	0.1	4	3	3	1	1	26	4.91
Marinaccio	1.1	3	2	2	1	1	34	5.03
Eisert	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	18	6.75
Callihan	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	0.00

T: 2:48. **A:** 39,105 (38,753).

Twins 2, Athletics 0

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wilson ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Kurtz dh	4	0	0	0	0	4	.263
Soderstrom lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.233
White 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Walton 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.290
McNeil 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.240
Bolte cf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.250
Butler rf	0	0	0	0	2	0	.199
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**10**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.293
Martin lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Buxton cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.269
Clemens 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.237
Bell dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.243
Lewis 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.212
Caratini c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.236
Roden rf	3	0	1	2	0	1	.226
Lee 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Kreidler ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.231
Totals	**30**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**8**	

Athletics	**000 000 000**	**—**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Minnesota	**000 002 00x**	**—**	**2**	**6**	**1**

E: Morris (2). **LOB:** Athletics 7, Minnesota 6. **2B:** McNeil 2 (13), Kreidler (5), Lewis (13). **RBIs:** Roden 2 (7). **SB:** Kreidler (1). **S:** Butler. **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 5 (Kurtz, Bolte, Wilson, Heim 2); Minnesota 1 (Clemens). **RISP:** Athletics 0 for 8; Minnesota 1 for 5.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Basso	2.1	2	0	0	1	3	36	5.06
Barnett, L, 1-1	3.1	4	2	2	1	2	54	4.74
Suarez	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	4.25
Juenger	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6.75
Medina	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.64

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rojas	4.0	1	0	0	1	5	56	2.81
Rogers, W, 6-3	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	30	5.17
Nance, H, 3	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	3.76
Morris, H, 15	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	26	3.24
Gómez, S, 13-13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3.40

T: 2:25. **A:** 30,873 (38,544).

Orioles 3, Braves 2

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.273
Albies 2b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.264
Olson 1b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.267
Harris cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.299
Dubón lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.265
Smith dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.259
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.217
Yastrzemski rf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.228
White ph-rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.220
Hicklen ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.368
Jarvis ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**9**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Beavers rf	4	0	2	1	1	1	.255
Alonso 1b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.247
Henderson ss	4	1	1	1	0	3	.223
Ward lf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.251
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.375
Taveras cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.232
O'Neill dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.209
Holliday 2b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.229
Tromp c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.205
Cowser ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.205
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**14**	

Atlanta	**000 001 010**	**—**	**2**	**6**	**2**
Baltimore	**001 010 001**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**

Two outs when winning run scored. **E:** Jarvis 2 (4). **LOB:** Atlanta 6, Baltimore 8. **2B:** Harris (21), White (6), Holliday (4). **HR:** Albies (17), off Garcia; Henderson (18), off Elder. **RBIs:** Dubón (55), Albies (57), Encarnacion-Strand (9), Henderson (45), Beavers (17). **SB:** Alonso (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 3 (Smith, Yastrzemski, Baldwin); Baltimore 4 (Taveras, Henderson 2, Encarnacion-Strand). **RISP:** Atlanta 0 for 6; Baltimore 2 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Dubón, Cowser. **DP:** Atlanta 2 (Riley, Albies, Olson; Jarvis, Albies, Olson).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Elder	5.0	4	2	1	4	8	98	3.96
Mederos	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	30	3.86
Fuentes, L, 4-1	1.2	2	1	1	0	3	32	2.70

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
B.Young	6.1	4	1	1	2	6	94	3.13
Wolfram, H, 12	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	10	4.40
Garcia, BS, 4-8	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	18	3.00
Cano, W, 2-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.34

T: 2:34. **A:** 37,883 (45,971).

Astros 4, White Sox 1

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	2	3	0	0	1	.315
Alvarez dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.325
Paredes 3b	4	0	2	3	0	1	.263
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Allen 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Wade lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.189
Trammell lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Walker 1b	3	0	0	0	1	3	.232
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Spence cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.179
Smith rf	3	1	0	0	0	1	.208
Totals	**33**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**12**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.278
Grichuk ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Murakami 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.231
Vargas 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.243
C.Montgomery ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.218
Benintendi dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.241
Acuña ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.245
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.250
Peters cf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.287
Meidroth 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Quero c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.179
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**10**	

Houston	**000 003 010**	**—**	**4**	**6**	**1**
Chicago	**000 000 001**	**—**	**1**	**5**	**1**

E: Spence (1), B.Montgomery (3). **LOB:** Houston 5, Chicago 5. **RBIs:** Paredes 3 (57), C.Montgomery (59). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 2 (Altuve, Walker); Chicago 2 (Grichuk 2). **RISP:** Houston 2 for 8; Chicago 1 for 4.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown, W, 2-1	7.0	2	0	0	0	7	90	3.45
Abreu	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	22	5.05
Sousa, H, 3	0.2	2	1	0	0	0	16	4.50
Hader, S, 12-12	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	10	1.35

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burke, L, 7-5	6.0	4	3	2	1	10	102	3.19
Richards	2.0	2	1	1	0	2	33	3.80
Schweitzer	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	15	3.78

T: 2:44. **A:** 30,029 (40,241).

Brewers 8, Rockies 5

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	5	0	1	2	0	1	.302
Karros 3b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.266
Carrigg cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.288
Goodman dh	4	0	1	2	0	2	.259
Rumfield 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.298
Castro 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Fulford c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.180
Sullivan ph-c	2	1	0	0	0	0	.218
Freeman rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Tovar ss	2	1	1	0	1	0	.198
Totals	**34**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**4**	**7**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.243
Chourio lf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.275
Turang 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.267
Contreras c	4	1	1	0	0	2	.274
Bauers 1b	3	3	2	0	1	1	.259
Mitchell cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.272
Lara rf	2	2	2	3	1	0	.276
Pratt ss	3	1	3	3	0	0	.281
Hamilton 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.237
Totals	**32**	**8**	**13**	**7**	**3**	**9**	

Colorado	**000 200 003**	**—**	**5**	**7**	**1**
Milwaukee	**020 104 01x**	**—**	**8**	**13**	**1**

E: Fulford (1), Bauers (7). **LOB:** Colorado 7, Milwaukee 6. **2B:** Carrigg (9), Yelich (17), Lara (2), Turang (25). **HR:** Pratt (2), off Feltner. **RBIs:** Goodman 2 (60), McCarthy 2 (58), Karros (37), Lara 3 (5), Pratt 3 (11), Yelich (37). **SB:** Bauers (7), Pratt (8). **CS:** Yelich (1). **SF:** Lara, Pratt, Yelich. **S:** Tovar. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 4 (Fulford, Carrigg, Karros, Goodman); Milwaukee 4 (Mitchell, Hamilton, Chourio 2). **RISP:** Colorado 3 for 11; Milwaukee 3 for 14. **Runners moved up:** Mitchell. **GIDP:** Contreras. **DP:** Colorado 1 (Castro, Rumfield).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner, L, 3-5	5.0	9	5	5	1	4	82	5.73
Mejia	1.0	2	2	1	1	1	25	5.48
Gordon	2.0	2	1	1	1	4	35	5.90

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gasser, W, 3-4	6.0	5	2	2	0	4	77	4.71
Patrick	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.48
McCullers	1.2	1	3	0	4	1	47	6.55
Megill, S, 17-19	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	8	2.97

T: 2:44. **A:** 34,328 (41,700).

Rangers 7, Mariners 1

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Young 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Rodríguez dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Canzone rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Arozarena lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.280
Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.257
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.163
Raley cf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.231
Wilson ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Robles cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Crawford 3b	3	0	2	1	0	1	.220
Emerson ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**31**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**9**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson 1b	5	1	3	0	0	0	.251
Langford lf	4	2	3	1	0	1	.290
Cauley 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Duran ss-3b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.270
Nimmo rf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.269
Carter cf	2	1	1	1	2	1	.192
Lopez 2b-ss	3	1	1	1	1	0	.314
Osuna dh	4	0	1	2	0	1	.263
Smith 3b-lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Wynns c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.086
Totals	**34**	**7**	**12**	**7**	**4**	**7**	

Seattle	**000 010 000**	**—**	**1**	**5**	**0**
Texas	**320 000 20x**	**—**	**7**	**12**	**0**

LOB: Seattle 4, Texas 7. **2B:** Crawford (11), Langford 2 (11), Carter (8), Pederson (10), Osuna (5). **3B:** Duran (3). **RBIs:** Crawford (29), Duran 2 (53), Carter (26), Lopez (16), Langford (29), Osuna 2 (23). **SB:** Pederson (2). **CS:** Naylor (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 1 (Emerson); Texas 3 (Wynns, Smith, Osuna). **RISP:** Seattle 0 for 1; Texas 6 for 14. **Runners moved up:** Lopez. **GIDP:** Pederson, Nimmo. **DP:** Seattle 2 (Young, Emerson, Naylor; Young, Naylor).

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo, L, 7-7	5.0	9	5	5	2	5	95	4.37
Wilcox	1.2	1	1	1	1	2	32	3.57
Davila	1.1	2	1	1	1	0	22	3.57

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi, W, 10-8	7.0	3	1	1	1	8	91	4.05
Ahlstrom	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	5.40
Peoples	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	2.45

T: 2:37. **A:** 34,006 (40,000).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	17	10	.630	—
Atlanta	16	10	.615	½
Liberty	15	12	.556	2
Washington	14	12	.538	2½
Toronto	10	16	.385	6½
Chicago	9	18	.333	8
Connecticut	7	20	.259	10

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	22	6	.786	—
Golden State	19	8	.704	2½
Las Vegas	18	8	.692	3
Dallas	18	9	.667	3½
Portland	11	16	.407	10½
Los Angeles	10	16	.385	11
Phoenix	10	18	.357	12
Seattle	6	23	.207	16½

Saturday

2026 All-Star Game

Team Spoon 129, Team Coop 122

Sunday

No games scheduled.

Monday

No games scheduled.

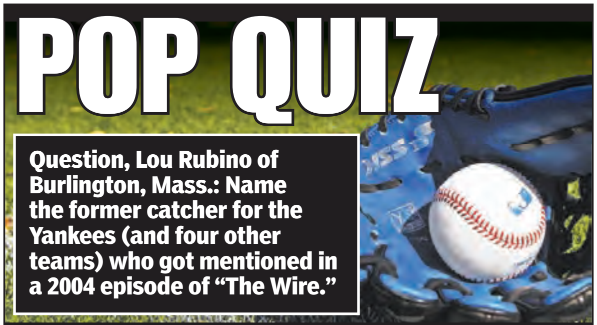
Tuesday

Liberty at Los Angeles, 10pm
Connecticut at Washington, 7:30pm
Toronto at Minnesota, 8pm
Indiana at Seattle, 9:30pm
Portland at Las Vegas, 10pm

Wednesday

Dallas at Washington, 7:30pm
Los Angeles at Chicago, 9pm

POP QUIZ



Question, Lou Rubino of Burlington, Mass.: Name the former catcher for the Yankees (and four other teams) who got mentioned in a 2004 episode of "The Wire."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: BOBBY ORR APPEARED N AN EPISODE OF "SPENSER: FOR HIRE."

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	3	39	33	12
Inter Miami CF	11	2	4	37	43	30
New England	9	5	2	29	26	19
Chicago	8	6	2	26	30	22
NYCFC	7	6	4	25	30	23
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	28	25
Cincinnati	6	6	5	23	41	42
Red Bulls	6	7	4	22	26	37
D.C. United	5	5	7	22	24	27
Orlando City	6	9	2	20	28	44
Columbus	5	8	4	19	24	26
Toronto FC	3	7	7	16	23	31
CF Montréal	4	10	3	15	22	33
Philadelphia	3	10	4	13	22	31
Atlanta	3	11	3	12	17	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	3	33	37	16
Los Angeles FC	10	5	3	33	34	18
San Jose	10	4	3	33	35	20
Real Salt Lake	8	6	2	26	28	24
Houston	8	6	2	26	23	24
FC Dallas	7	5	5	26	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	4	25	23	23
Seattle FC	7	6	3	24	19	20
Minn. United	6	6	5	23	19	24
Portland	6	8	3	21	31	32
LA Galaxy	5	7	6	21	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	5	20	31	28
Colorado	6	10	1	19	26	25
Austin FC	4	8	5	17	22	35
Sporting K.C.	4	11	2	14	18	44

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday

Charlotte FC 2, **Red Bulls** 0
NYCFC 3, Chicago 1
Columbus 2, Cincinnati 1
D.C. United 2, Toronto FC 1
Miami 1, CF Montréal 0
New England 4, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 1, Seattle FC 0
Houston 3, Austin FC 0
Vancouver 0, Minnesota 0
St Louis City 1, Colorado 0
Orlando City 1, Nashville 0
San Diego FC 1, FC Dallas 0
Los Angeles FC 4, Sporting K.C. 0
Portland 2, Salt Lake 1
LA Galaxy 1, San Jose 1

Friday

Toronto FC at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm

Saturday, August 1

Orlando City at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
San Jose at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Columbus at Miami, 7:30pm
New England at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Houston at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Salt Lake at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Seattle FC at Portland, 10:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**9**	**3**	**4**	**31**	**21**	**12**
Washington	9	3	3	30	24	12
Utah Royals FC	9	4	3	30	26	17
San Diego	9	5	2	29	23	17
Portland	8	5	4	28	27	20
Kansas City	8	7	1	25	23	23
Orlando	7	8	2	23	22	21
Angel City	7	6	1	22	22	14
North Carolina	6	6	3	21	21	23
Denver Summit FC	5	5	4	19	21	19
Houston	5	7	4	19	19	24
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	4	19	18	23
Bay FC	5	7	3	18	16	20
Seattle	5	7	2	17	15	19
Chicago	4	12	0	12	8	31
Louisville	2	10	2	8	16	27

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday

Boston Legacy FC 1, Kansas City 0
Utah Royals FC 4, North Carolina 1

Sunday

Seattle at San Diego, 5pm
Denver Summit FC at Washington, 7pm
Louisville at Angel City, 9pm

Wednesday

Louisville at Kansas City, 8pm
Washington at Utah Royals FC, 9pm
Gotham FC at Bay FC, 10pm

Friday

Orlando at North Carolina, 8pm

Saturday, August 1

Chicago at Louisville, 4pm
Angel City at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Gotham FC at Houston, 8pm
Seattle at Bay FC, 8:45pm

Sunday, August 2

San Diego at Washington, 4pm
Portland at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Boston Legacy FC at Denver Summit FC, 9pm

Wednesday, August 5

North Carolina at Denver Summit FC, 10pm

CFL

Canadian Football League

East Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Montreal	5	1	0	10	208	186
Hamilton	3	3	0	6	149	159
Toronto	3	4	0	6	222	219
Ottawa	0	6	0	0	153	213

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Edmonton	6	1	0	12	203	172
Saskatchewan	4	2	0	8	204	169
Winnipeg	4	3	0	8	185	208
Calgary	3	4	0	4	278	244
BC	1	5	0	2	152	182

Week 8

Saturday

Toronto 26, BC 12

Sunday,

Hamilton at Montreal, 7pm

Week 9

Thursday

BC at Winnipeg, 8:30pm

Friday

Montreal at Ottawa, 7:30pm

Saturday

Calgary at Hamilton, 3pm
Saskatchewan at Edmonton, 7pm

The POST Line

MLB
Sunday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
PHILLIES	$136-162	**Yankees**
Dodgers	$130-154	**METS**
RAYS	$116-134	Guardians
RED SOX	$116-136	Blue Jays
TIGERS	$154-184	Royals
TWINS	$136-162	Athletics
WHITE SOX	107-112	Astros
RANGERS	-109-110	Mariners
PIRATES	$104-122	Cubs
Diamondbacks	$100-118	NATIONALS
MARLINS	$108-126	Padres
BREWERS	$240-295	Rockies
CARDINALS	$112-132	Reds
Braves	-104-112	ORIOLES
Angels	-106-110	GIANTS

Home team in CAPS

NFL-Preseason
Thursday, August 6

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Panthers	1.5 (35.5)	Cardinals

game held in Canton, OH

NFL

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
	Wed. Sept. 9	
SEAHAWKS	3.5 (44.5)	Patriots
	Thur. Sept. 10	
RAMS	3 (48.5)	49ers
	Sun. Sept. 13	
Cowboys	2.5 (48.5)	**GIANTS**
TITANS	3 (39.5)	**Jets**
LIONS	7 (48.5)	Saints
JAGUARS	7.5 (40.5)	Browns
Bears	2.5 (44.5)	PANTHERS
Bills	1.5 (45.5)	TEXANS
Ravens	3.5 (49.5)	COLTS
BENGALS	3.5 (50.5)	Buccaneers
STEELERS	3 (42.5)	Falcons
CHARGERS	11.5 (45.5)	Cardinals
EAGLES	5.5 (46.5)	Commanders
RAIDERS	3 (41.5)	Dolphins
Packers	1.5 (44.5)	VIKINGS
	Monday	
CHIEFS	2.5 (42.5)	Broncos

Home Teams In CAPS

CFL
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ALOUETTES	10 (57.5)	Tiger-Cats

STITCHES

Springs for the Athletic Stitches

"You know why you're loved? You are the only guy that can work Mitch 'Blood' Green into a baseball handicapping column."
— Mark

There's Babe Ruth, Tom Brady, Michael Jordan and Wayne Gretzky, but there is only one Mitch "Blood" Green.

The Athletics are in Minnesota. No, I could not find a better game than this. The A's Jeffrey Springs has three wins. They were earned in April. But Springs sprang back to life when he limited the Snakes to two runs in his last start. $50 on the A's.

-$

Royals win! Michael Wacha gave up two runs and left the game down 2-1. But Salvador Perez homered to tie it at 2-2, and Nick Loftin homered in the ninth inning as the Royals crowned the Tigers 3-2. Perez became the new home run king of Kansas City. His 318th passed George Brett on the all-time list. Road dog victory has us at -167 quisenberrys.

stitches@nypost.com

NBA

Favorites to win 2026-27 NBA title

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Thunder	+260	Lakers	45/1
Spurs	+260	Magic	55/1
Knicks	+900	Hawks	55/1
76ers	10/1	Warriors	60/1
Celtics	14/1	Trail Blazers	70/1
Raptors	20/1	Suns	125/1
Nuggets	22/1	Hornets	150/1
Pistons	25/1	Jazz	200/1
T'Wolves	25/1	Mavericks	225/1
Cavaliers	33/1	Wizards	250/1
Heat	35/1	Clippers	600/1
Rockets	35/1	Nets	750/1
Pacers	40/1	Bucks	750/1

Getty Images
Jalen Brunson

TOP PLAY

Dodgers primed to run over Peralta, Amazin's

By SEAN TREPPEDI

FREDDY PERALTA

It's looking more and more like Freddy Peralta will be a sunk cost for the Mets.

When David Stearns acquired him in January in exchange for two valued prospects, the two-time All-Star was expected to slide into the rotation as a frontline ace.

Instead, Peralta has struggled gravely in New York. He falls behind in counts, his pitch sequencing has been poor, and there's been a steep drop off in deception. Known as a strikeout artist, Peralta's swing-and-miss percentage has plummeted, and he's on pace for the lowest strikeout-per-nine clip in his nine-year career. All six of his pitches have seen an uptick in opposing batting average.

Peralta was knocked around in his last start against the Brewers, returning to his former team's park only to cough up seven earned runs in 5 ⅓ innings. It was the first time he completed five innings of work in four starts.

With Peralta's pending unrestricted free agent status and the Mets' tailspinning season, he could use a change of scenery while the Mets look toward the future. But he now sports a 5.01 ERA — the fourth-highest among qualified starters — heading into Sunday's series finale against the big, bad Dodgers.

The Dodgers are expectedly on cruise control toward defending their back-to-back titles in October. They lead all of baseball in wRC+ and have a run differential of plus-159 ahead of Saturday's games.

Peralta's career against the Dodgers has been hit or miss, owning a 3.29 ERA in 41 innings. Peralta's high walk rate is a concern against a patient Dodgers lineup that owns the third-highest walk rate in baseball.

He also throws fastballs more than 50 percent of the time — a pitch that nine Dodgers have positive run value against per Statcast.

THE PLAY: Freddy Peralta Over 2.5 earned runs.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Dodgers	Sheehan (R)		4-7	5.13	8-10	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	15.0	5.40
Mets	Peralta (R)	(1:40pm)	5-9	5.01	9-12	2-0	3.27	4-2	0-2	14.1	6.28
Braves	López (R)		4-3	3.96	6-4	—	—	2-2	0-2	14.1	6.28
Orioles	Baz (R)	(1:35pm)	4-9	4.05	6-14	—	—	0-0	0-1	16.2	3.24
Angels	Soriano (R)		8-6	3.43	11-10	—	—	0-0	0-1	18.0	3.50
Giants	Whisenhunt (L)	(4:05pm)	2-0	3.38	2-0	—	—	0-0	3-0	15.2	4.02
Yankees	Warren (R)		7-4	4.00	13-6	—	—	0-0	0-1	14.1	5.65
Phillies	Sánchez (L)	(7:20pm)	12-4	2.65	15-6	—	—	0-1	2-1	15.2	7.47
Guardians	Messick (L)		8-5	2.68	12-8	0-0	1.59	2-0	1-0	16.2	1.62
Rays	Rasmussen (R)	(12:15pm)	8-5	3.28	10-9	0-1	3.60	0-0	1-1	12.1	9.49
Blue Jays	Gausman (R)		4-9	4.51	8-13	0-0	0.00	9-11	0-2	14.2	6.75
Red Sox	Suarez (L)	(1:35pm)	4-3	3.15	9-8	1-0	0.00	2-0	1-0	14.2	4.30
Royals	Avila (R)		5-3	4.86	7-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	16.1	3.31
Tigers	Valdez (L)	(1:40pm)	5-7	4.57	8-12	0-0	1.29	2-3	1-2	12.2	8.53
Athletics	Springs (L)		3-9	5.96	8-12	—	—	2-0	0-2	14.2	8.59
Twins	Prielipp (L)	(2:10pm)	2-5	5.00	5-8	—	—	—	0-1	17.0	4.24
Astros	Blanco (R)		0-0	7.71	1-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	18.2	3.38
White Sox	Fedde (R)	(2:10pm)	5-6	4.16	6-4	0-1	1.50	0-1	2-0	14.0	3.21
Mariners	Gilbert (R)		8-6	3.38	12-8	0-2	3.18	5-4	2-1	20.0	3.15
Rangers	deGrom (R)	(2:35pm)	7-6	3.76	11-8	0-0	1.00	2-2	1-1	16.2	4.86
D'Backs	Drake (L)		0-0	1.80	1-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	5.0	1.80
Nationals	Mikolas (R)	(1:35pm)	3-7	5.60	4-4	1-1	5.40	3-3	1-1	16.1	7.71
Cubs	Taillon (R)		2-5	5.38	6-8	0-0	8.18	4-2	0-1	11.2	5.40
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)	(1:35pm)	9-4	3.95	13-7	1-0	1.59	1-1	1-1	13.2	8.56
Padres	Buehler (R)		6-5	5.23	13-7	1-0	0.00	2-1	1-1	12.2	9.24
Marlins	Junk (R)	(1:40pm)	4-6	5.09	6-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	14.0	5.14
Rockies	Freeland (L)		2-9	7.28	6-12	0-0	5.40	5-4	0-2	17.0	7.41
Brewers	Misiorowski (R)	(2:10pm)	10-4	1.56	12-7	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	16.0	2.25
Reds	Abbott (L)		5-6	3.89	10-11	0-0	0.00	4-4	0-2	16.0	3.94
Cardinals	Leahy (R)	(2:15pm)	7-4	3.59	9-10	0-0	8.00	0-0	1-0	14.0	0.64

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 26	MON July 27	TUE July 28	WED July 29	THU July 30
	Philadelphia 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 2:10 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Dodgers 1:40 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 1:10 SNY 880 AM	Miami 7:10 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Los Angeles 10:00 My9	NO GAME	Las Vegas 10:00 Prime Video

Saturday	Friday	Wednesday
Orlando City SC 7:30 Apple TV	Toronto FC 7:30 Apple TV	Bay FC 10:00 CBSSN

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
11 a.m.	Hall of Fame Preview	MLBN
Noon	Guardians at Rays	NBCSN, Peacock
1:30 p.m.	2026 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony	MLBN
1:40 p.m.	Dodgers at Mets	SNY, 880 AM
4:30 p.m.	Angels at Giants	MLBN
7:20 p.m.	Yankees at Phillies	NBC, Peacock, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
	GOLF	
7 a.m.	LPGA Tour: ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open, Final Round	CNBC
8 a.m.	LIV Golf League: United Kingdom, Final Round	FS1
8:30 a.m.	PGA Tour Champions: ISPS HANDA Senior Open, Final Round	Golf
Noon	PGA Tour Champions: ISPS HANDA Senior Open, Final Round	NBC
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: 3M Open, Final Round	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: 3M Open, Final Round	CBS
	MEN'S SOCCER	
5 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Forge at Inter Toronto	FS2
8:50 p.m.	CONCACAF U-20 Champ. Group Stage: Honduras vs. Jamaica	FS2
	NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER	
5 p.m.	Seattle Reign at San Diego Wave	CBSSN
9 p.m.	Racing Louisville at Angel City	ESPN
	BASKETBALL	
1 p.m.	BIG 3: Week 6	CBS
2 p.m.	TBT Alumni Bracket Semifinal: Boeheim's Army at LA Familia	Fox
	FOOTBALL	
10 a.m.	NFL Flag Football Boys and Girls Championships	ESPN, NFLN
4 p.m.	NFL Flag Football Boys and Girls Championships	ABC, NFLN
7 p.m.	CFL: Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Montreal Alouettes	CBSSN
	TENNIS	
8 a.m.	WTA Hamburg: Finals	Tennis
8 a.m.	WTA Prague: Finals	Tennis
12:30 p.m.	ATP Estoril: Finals	Tennis
	SOFTBALL	
2 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited Championship: TBD - Game 2	ESPN
	AUTO RACING	
9 a.m.	Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix	Apple TV
2 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Brickyard 400, In-Season Challenge	TNT
4 p.m.	NHRA: Muckleshoot Casino Resort NHRA Northwest Nationals	Fox
	TRACK AND FIELD	
4 p.m.	USATF: 2026 Toyota USATF Outdoor & Para National Champ.	NBC
	HORSE RACING	
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
2:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
4 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
	BEACH VOLLEYBALL	
1 p.m.	AVP League: Week 7	CBSSN
	CYCLING	
9:30 a.m.	UCI: Tour de France, Final Stage	NBCSN
	X GAMES	
2 p.m.	MoonPay X Games New Orleans 2026: Day 3	ABC
6 p.m.	MoonPay X Games New Orleans 2026: Day 3	ESPN
	SAILING	
11 a.m.	Sail GP: Event 08- Day 2	CBSSN

ODDS & ENDS

NASCAR
Sunday
Brickyard 400

RACE WINNER	ODDS
Denny Hamlin	+350
Kyle Larson	+475
Tyler Reddick	+800
Carson Hocevar	10/1
Chase Briscoe	11/1
Christopher Bell	12/1
Ryan Blaney	12/1
William Byron	12/1
Ty Gibbs	12/1
Chase Elliott	16/1
Bubba Wallace	16/1
Chris Buescher	22/1
Daniel Suárez	25/1
Corey Heim	30/1
Joey Logano	35/1
Erik Jones	35/1
Brad Keselowski	50/1
Alex Bowman	50/1
Ross Chastain	50/1
Michael McDowell	50/1
Austin Cindric	80/1
John Hunter Nemechek	100/1
Ryan Preece	125/1
Shane van Gisbergen	125/1
AJ Allmendinger	150/1
Riley Herbst	250/1
Connor Zilisch	250/1
Austin Dillon	250/1
Josh Berry	350/1
Zane Smith	350/1
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	350/1
Todd Gilliland	350/1
Cole Custer	350/1
Austin Hill	750/1
Noah Gragson	750/1
Ty Dillon	1,000/1
Daniel Dye	2,000/1
Cody Ware	5,000/1
Casey Mears	5,000/1

NASCAR CUP SERIES
Outright Winner

RACER	ODDS
Denny Hamlin	+170
Tyler Reddick	+380
Ryan Blaney	+650
Kyle Larson	+800
Chase Elliott	+900
Christopher Bell	10/1
Chase Briscoe	12/1
Ty Gibbs	12/1
William Byron	12/1
Carson Hocevar	16/1
Joey Logano	16/1
Chris Buescher	22/1
Shane van Gisbergen	25/1
Bubba Wallace	30/1
Daniel Suárez	35/1
Ross Chastain	35/1
Brad Keselowski	50/1
Connor Zilisch	50/1
Ryan Preece	50/1
Michael McDowell	50/1

BET SMART

Redemption awaits Berlanga

IT'S BOUT TIME! Edgar Berlanga (left) and Steven Butler stare each other down during the Zuffa Boxing Media Day at Fanatics Fest 2026. Getty Images

By MIKE TURAY

Brooklyn's pride returns to the ring Sunday as super middleweight Edgar Berlanga (23-2, 18 KOs) headlines against Steven Butler (37-5-1, 32 KOs) in an eight-fight card promoted by Dana White's Zuffa Boxing.

The event will be held at Madison Square Garden's Infosys Theater, with the preliminary card beginning at 5 p.m. and the main event starting at 8 p.m.

In the co-main event, another Brooklyn-based fighter, Richardson Hitchins, is scheduled to face Ricardo Salas in a 12-round welterweight bout.

Berlanga is a clear betting favorite with -360 odds on the moneyline, while Canadian-born Butler hopes to pull off an upset as the +290 underdog.

Berlanga enters the ring looking to redeem himself after a fifth-round stoppage at the hands of Hamzah Sheeraz last July.

It marks a difficult stretch for the super middleweight, who has now dropped two of his last three appearances, including when his undefeated streak ended against Canelo Alvarez in September 2024.

The bout serves as a critical test for Berlanga's championship aspirations against a more seasoned opponent. Butler, known as "Bang Bang," arrives from Montreal riding a four-fight winning streak fueled by a series of victories over local Canadian contenders.

The Brooklyn native tipped the scales at 168.6 pounds, carrying a marginal height edge into the ring. Despite Berlanga's stature, he faces a reach deficit against Butler, who measured in at 168.4 pounds with a 75-inch reach compared to the favorite's 73-inch reach.

Entering this ten-round contest, "The Chosen One" has emphasized a shift toward technical precision and enhanced ring intelligence. With fewer rounds to work with than his previous 12-round championship bouts, Berlanga intends to showcase refined conditioning and a more calculated approach from the opening bell.

If Berlanga can prioritize fatigue, utilizing a measured jab to identify Butler's weak spots defensively, this one could be a walk in the park.

Moving away from his signature aggressive onslaught, Berlanga must adopt a more cerebral strategy — mirroring the veteran composure Canelo displays — to lull Butler into a false sense of security before unleashing his power in the later rounds.

Sunday represents Butler's inaugural return to American soil following a May 2023 defeat against Zhanibek Alimkhanuly, a contest that saw him hit the canvas three times during a lopsided second round.

While his recent resume reflects a statistical resurgence, the momentum likely shifts toward the favorite. Expect Berlanga to reclaim his status with a stoppage win.

Butler's lack of top-tier opposition will be exposed in this matchup.

In order for Berlanga to re-establish any future championship opportunities, he must utilize the 78 percent knockout power that has defined his professional career.

Recommendation: Berlanga to win by KO/TKO/DQ (-130, FanDuel); Berlanga to win in Rounds 7-8 (+700, FanDuel)

SHANAHAN SHOCKER!

Revealed 49ers coach injured in severe car crash earlier this month

By ROSS O'KEEFE
and EVAN WEBECK

ON THE MEND: 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan is suffering "lingering effects" from a recent car crash, but he is expected to coach his team in its season opener on Sept. 10. AP

San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch gave an update on head coach Kyle Shanahan's condition Saturday morning after news broke that he suffered major injuries in a car crash earlier this month.

Lynch said in a news conference that Shanahan is suffering "lingering effects" from the severe concussion he endured and is being "basically" treated like he's in an NFL concussion protocol. The executive noted Shanahan will be out on the field for training camp "to what he can tolerate."

"Kyle basically is going to be like in the protocol," he said. "Doc [Anthony Saglimbeni] and all the great doctors we have are giving him great care, and we're going to let you know [his] condition. ... The doctors dictate how he comes back, when he comes back."

Shanahan will be on the team's injury report in an atypical position for the coach, who normally provides updates himself on the team's injuries.

Lynch said assistant head coach Chris Foerster will assume Shanahan's duties "in concert with our staff," but will be the "acting" head coach. The offensive guru will miss at least the first portion of practices as he recovers from his injuries.

"Chris is the acting head coach, but it is going to be very much a collective effort," he said.

Shanahan is still expected to coach the 49ers against the Rams in their season opener overseas in Melbourne, Australia. The game, which will air in the U.S. at 8:35 p.m. on Sept. 10, will be the first regular-season NFL contest in Australia.

Rams head coach Sean McVay said he spoke to Shanahan after his car accident.

"Most importantly, thank God he and the other person involved is OK," McVay told reporters.

Shanahan's injuries will anot impact the team's travel plans, Lynch said. Offensive coordinator Klay Kubiak and defensive coordinator Raheem Morris, who has several past stints as an NFL head coach, will also assist Foerster in his duties. Foerster has been a coach in the NFL since 1993 and also serves as the team's offensive line coach.

Shanahan suffered horrific injuries — including a severe concussion — in a car crash near his Northern California home.

Shanahan's vehicle collided with an SUV on July 14, leaving the coach with a broken nose, three broken ribs and a broken hand, according to ESPN. He also had to get 40 stitches in his face.

Shanahan was rushed to the hospital for treatment before being released later in the day, according to ESPN's Adam Schefter. The other driver was uninjured.

Shanahan has been recovering at home and is believed to be progressing well, though doctors are not expected to clear him for full participation until his concussion symptoms subside. The team has not provided a timetable for his return.

Lynch said Shanahan will be on the practice field "some" in the coming days but won't be giving any media briefings or talking to the team.

The crash occurred around 6:13 p.m. near the intersection of Alma Street and Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Police Department told The Post. Both drivers were compliant with police and were not cited for the collision. No impairment was suspected in the accident.

Police said no information will be released regarding the cause of the crash or which party was at fault.

Polanco will get more ABs

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Mets are planning to get Jorge Polanco plenty of at-bats over the next month in the wake of Juan Soto's left calf strain.

Interim manager Andy Green said Polanco will get the bulk of the designated hitter reps moving forward and even suggested he may play some first base at some point.

METS NOTES

"We're still trying to get him back on the field and into rhythm," Green said before the Mets fell to the Dodgers 4-3 in Queens. "In the last week, Juan's obviously taken quite a few of the DH at-bats, and I think that's kind of stunted [Polanco's] ability to find some rhythm. He's a guy we believe a lot in. And then hopefully as time goes on, we'll get him to first base and we'll see how the DH at-bats get divided up at that point."

Brought in during the offseason to help replace Pete Alonso, Polanco has been a major disappointment. He missed a ton of time with left Achilles bursitis and a right wrist contusion and hasn't produced at all offensively. Since coming off the IL in early July, Polanco is 4-for-35 (.114). On the season, he is slashing a dreadful .156/.208/.233 with a .441 OPS in 24 games.

➤ The strikeouts are piling up for **A.J. Ewing**. He fanned twice Saturday night and has now whiffed 16 times in the past nine games. The rookie outfielder is also in a 3-for-22 (.136) skid.

➤ **Clay Holmes** will throw a bullpen session Sunday. The Mets will determine his next step after that. Holmes threw 51 pitches in a rehab assignment with Triple-A Syracuse on Thursday. ... Mets great **David Wright** was in attendance for the game. ... **Eric Wagaman** was called up from Syracuse to replace Soto on the active roster.

JORGE POLANCO

Double whammy: Another call goes against Cabby

By DAN MARTIN
and GREG JOYCE

PHILADELPHIA — José Caballero didn't see eye to eye with the umpires again Saturday night.

This time, the disagreement came on defense, as Caballero initially appeared to make a leaping catch of a Bryson Stott line drive with one out and runners on first and second in the bottom of the fourth of a 3-1 win over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

But Caballero dropped the Stott liner and headed to second base to tag Bryan De La Cruz, who had gone back to second.

Instead of being rewarded with a double play to end the inning, second base umpire Brennan Miller — of "savages in the box" fame — ruled that Caballero intentionally dropped the ball and the play was over, with only Stott retired and runners still on first and second.

YANKEES NOTES

"I was very surprised," Caballero said of the call. "They really think highly of me: I can catch the ball, drop the ball and catch the bounce in one motion."

Ryan Weathers ended up getting Derek Hill looking to end the inning to preserve a 1-1 tie.

The controversy came after Caballero found himself on the wrong side of MLB's pitch clock rules.

➤ **Aaron Judge** continues to feel better in his recovery from a right rib fracture, just not good enough for significant progress.

Ten days after undergoing imaging on his right rib stress fracture, which showed healing but not to the extent that allowed him to be cleared for baseball activities, the Yankees captain remains in a holding pattern while waiting for more healing.

➤ **Giancarlo Stanton** (right calf strain) is still in the midst of a running progression — not yet on the bases — but like Judge, remains without a timeline for a return. **...Carlos Rodón** threw a two-up (simulating two innings) bullpen session Saturday as he works back from left elbow inflammation.

Fire power

Lewandowski's MLS arrival brings world-class threat to NYCFC's doorstep

POL VAULT: Polish icon Robert Lewandowski is the latest international star to give a boost to the stature of MLS. For NYCFC, his arrival in Chicago means one more big challenge to contend with when playing the Fire.

Getty Images

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

If it wasn't clear who soccer fans in the Bronx were excited to see during New York City FC's 3-1 win over the Chicago Fire on Saturday, it became obvious moments after the second half started when former Barcelona star Robert Lewandowski entered the match.

Lewandowski, the latest big name to come to Major League Soccer following the arrival of Lionel Messi in 2023, stepped onto the pitch at Yankee Stadium to thunderous applause. The cheers for the Polish star were even louder than for the home side, including U.S. men's national team goalkeeper Matt Freese, who received a subdued but warm reception from the crowd.

Saturday marked Lewandowski's second appearance for his new MLS club since making the move during the World Cup break, after his contract with Barcelona expired following the La Liga season in May.

And his arrival in MLS, joining the likes of Thomas Müller and Antoine Griezmann as European stars to come to North America, excited members of NYCFC as much as the fans.

"As an attacker, he's one that you grew up watching [during] his time at Bayern Munich and Barcelona," New York City FC forward Malachi Jones said about facing Lewandowski. "He's a very prolific goal scorer and everyone that knows the game can see that. It's always really cool to share the field with somebody of that caliber. But at the same time, you make sure that you idolize him before the game, after the game, but not so much during the game.

"During the game it's all the mentality of go out there, get the three points and then we can chat afterwards. He's definitely one of those players you look up to growing up, so to be able to play on the same pitch is cool, but it's one that's celebrated after the moment rather than in the moment."

Lewandowski played 45 minutes Saturday night and took two shots during the match.

His world-class talent isn't lost on anyone. He's been successful wherever he's played.

He is one of only three players to score at least 100 goals with three clubs, doing so during his time at Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Barcelona. He has won UEFA Champions League, UEFA Super Cup, 10 Bundesliga titles, three La Liga titles, one Copa del Rey and three Supercopas.

And on the international stage, Lewandowski has scored 89 goals in 167 appearances for Poland.

Lewandowski's signing in Chicago through the 2027-28 season, along with the additions of other well-known names around the league, are signs of how far MLS has come, commissioner Don Garber said during a media event at their headquarters in Midtown Manhattan.

"MLS is a better league than we were a year ago, better than we were five years ago and 20 years ago, and we're going to be a better league five years from now and 20 years from now," Garber said. "There's no secret sauce. It's just more of the same: smart strategic investment, player development, using more data and analytics to sign players that are going to be effective on the field. And like Antoine, [players who] want to be here. Antoine wants to be here. Leo Messi wants to be here.

"We didn't have to convince them to come. They wanted to come to us. They made the choice to be here, and I think that's only going to get better in the years to come."

In the meantime, Lewandowski's arrival adds another immediate challenge for NYCFC as it tries to move up the table coming out of the World Cup break. The Fire are one of the clubs NYCFC is chasing, and Saturday's win helped pull it within a point of the fourth-place Fire.

"We knew we were going to face a very good team in the league and if you see how they played until the break, that is very impressive," NYCFC head coach Pascal Jansen said. "If you can bring Lewandowski back in, you have another quality player, but you can also tell the dynamics of the game that Chicago likes to play is also a little disrupted now. They have to find a way in order to make sure that they get Lewandowski in situations where he can be the most dangerous that he can be."

carnold1@nypost.com

Fernández Mercau shines again amid transfer chatter

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

NYCFC 3
CHICAGO 1
MLS

Nicolás Fernández Mercau hasn't taken his eye off the prize for New York City FC.

Though questions remain about what the future may hold for the NYCFC star, he hasn't lost a step on the pitch, scoring his 12th goal of the season Saturday to move into a tie for the second-most goals in all of MLS and helping lift the club to a 3-1 victory over the Chicago Fire at Yankee Stadium.

The Argentine has been a star for the club all season, and his efforts now have him tied with soccer legend Lionel Messi for goals during this year's MLS campaign.

"That's pure quality and personality combined. We all saw before the break what he's capable of," New York City FC head coach Pascal Jansen said about Fernández Mercau. "We all saw what he's capable of when he started growing into the 2025 season, so for me, it's not a surprise. Nico is very talented, but he's a winner also and great personality."

Saturday was the second consecutive match Fernández Mercau had scored in, coming after a report earlier in the week indicated that the club's best player wants a transfer.

The news came as a bit of a surprise and was not necessarily denied by Jansen earlier in the week when he was asked about it following the win over Columbus on Wednesday.

Fernández Mercau was able to find the back of the net on a left-footed blast from just outside the box that found the top left corner. The shot was fired with such power that it appeared to break the Apple TV camera that was positioned in the goal.

"He loves the game even after traveling to Columbus, pushing himself to bring the level today again like he did," Jansen said Saturday. "And lifting the team to another level as well, and that's why he chose the project of New York and hopefully we can enjoy Nico for a very long time."

Agustín Ojeda and Malachi Jones each scored for New York City FC. Saturday also marked NYCFC and U.S. men's national team goalkeeper Matt Freese's first match back in the Empire State since the end of the World Cup.

Freese had been booed every time he touched the ball during Wednesday's win over Columbus, but received a much warmer welcome at Yankee Stadium.

He was given a warm ovation when introduced during warm-ups and was applauded loudly during several tough saves in the second half.

In one instance, Freese made a good save on a shot by Puso Dithejane in the 89th minute, which resulted in a loud roar and fans chanting "Freese!"

"Obviously, incredible honor to have the energy and the support from our fans here," Freese said. "I don't mind getting booed. Respectfully, I'm from Philadelphia, and anything they're saying to me on the field, I can guarantee you, I've said worse at Eagles games. So I'm fine with it."

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CHANGING LANE

Royals slugger shifting gears in second half

Jarad Wilk
Fantasy Insanity

WE'VE reached the point in the season when production is needed any way you can find it. There is no time to be consumed with finding the next big thing on the waiver wire, you need to worry about attacking categories that will help you gain ground on the competition — or keep them at bay.

There are plenty of hot bats available to boost your chances at winning your league.

Lane Thomas' .236/.334/.403 slash line is nothing to write home about, and his numbers through June looked awful — he hit .217 with five homers, 23 RBIs, 20 runs, four stolen bases and a devilish .666 OPS through 71 games. The 30-year-old Royal, however, has looked like a different player this month, hitting .290 with four homers, 13 RBIs, nine runs, two stolen bases and a .935 OPS in his first 18 games.

Let's not forget: This is a veteran outfielder who has had success — and fantasy relevance — before. In 2023, he hit .268 with 28 homers, 86 RBIs, 101 runs, 20 stolen bases and a .783 OPS for the Nationals. He averaged 20 homers and 20 steals from 2022-24 and still carries elite speed, ranking in the 92nd percentile in sprint speed. He has lowered his strikeout rate (23.1 percent, down from his career-worst 31 percent in 2025) and increased his walk rate to 12.4 percent (higher than his 8.5 percent career mark).

Thomas is playing every day and hitting toward the top of Kansas City's lineup (mostly second or cleanup), and that is unlikely to change while Bobby Witt Jr. is on the injured list. It doesn't hurt that the Royals line up to play three in Minnesota (fifth-worst team ERA), three in Colorado (worst team ERA and third-most homers allowed) and another three against the Twins at home after this weekend's series in Detroit.

Thomas, rostered in just 5.2 percent of ESPN leagues and 12 percent at Yahoo, has a chance to be a viable option for the remainder of the season. At the very least, he should provide a boost in multiple categories against below average pitching staffs over the next nine games. Ride his hot bat for as long as you can.

Here are other widely available players who can provide categorical boosts while not killing your squad in other areas:

AVERAGE

Trevor Larnach (6.2% ESPN, 8% Yahoo) hit .341 in his first 38 games since June 1, the fourth-best mark in the majors. The Twins outfielder also had five homers, 22 RBIs, 22 runs and a .955 OPS in that span.

HOME RUNS

Six of Ty France's (10.7% ESPN, 19% Yahoo) 16 homers came in his first 16 games this month while hitting .297 with 14 RBIs and a .994 OPS. June was the only month the Padres first baseman hit below .283 this season.

RBIs

Despite underwhelming underlying metrics, Jake McCarthy (55.9% ESPN, 66% Yahoo) is having a career year. In addition to hitting .305 and stealing 17 bases, he owns a career-high marks in homers and OPS. (FYI: He'll play 28 more games in Colorado this season, including 15 in September, where he hit .321 with 37 RBIs and a .925 OPS.)

RUNS

Pittsburgh's Nick Gonzales (19.2% ESPN, 44% Yahoo) scored the same number of runs (45) as Ohtani, Bryce Harper and teammate Brandon Lowe in 68 games since May 1 while hitting .312 with 31 RBIs and a .807 OPS..

STOLEN BASES

The Mets' Carson Benge (23.3 ESPN, 51% Yahoo) stole 10 bases in his first 71 games since May 1 while hitting .286 with nine homers, 34 RBIs and 43 runs. His teammate, A.J. Ewing (11.3% ESPN, 31% Yahoo), hit .271 with 25 RBIs, 27 runs and 11 stolen bases in 63 games before Friday.

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Lane Thomas

Imagn Images

BIG HITS

Drake Baldwin C, Braves

Went 22-for-55 (.400) with five homers, 16 RBIs, 11 runs, a stolen base and a 1.187 OPS in his past 15 games before Friday.

Jacob Wilson SS, Athletics

Entered the weekend on a 10-game hit streak, batting .405 with three homers, six RBIs, seven runs, a stolen base and 1.086 OPS in that span. Had at least one hit in 26 of his previous 34 games.

Isaac Paredes 1B/3B, Astros

Was hitting .229 as of June 13, but hit .331 with five homers, 21 RBIs and a .925 OPS over his next 31 games to boost his average to .263.

Seiya Suzuki OF, Cubs

Hit 10 homers and drove in 34 runs in his last 39 games before Friday. He hit .308 with 29 runs, a stolen base and .987 OPS in that span.

BIG WHIFFS

Ryan O'Hearn 1B/OF, Pirates

In 11 games since July 7, when he hit three homers and drove in 10 runs, he hit .132 with no homers, three RBIs, 14 strikeouts and a .402 OPS.

Aaron Nola SP, Phillies

He is 0-4 with a 5.92 ERA, 3.14 walks per nine, a .270 opponents' average and 15 homers allowed in 10 starts since his last win on May 26.

Gage Jump SP, Athletics

Suffered five straight defeats while allowing 20 earned runs over $21\frac{2}{3}$ innings (8.31 ERA), seven homers and a 10.1 percent walk rate. Opponents hit .371 against him in those outings.

Kevin Gausman SP, Blue Jays

Last win came on May 22, and he is 0-6 with a 6.10 ERA, 4.18 walks per nine and a .274 opponents' average in his past 10 starts.

CHECK SWINGS

- ● Things may be turning around for San Diego's **Jackson Merrill.** He hit .274 with six homers, 13 RBIs, 12 runs, two stolen bases and a .841 OPS in his first 19 games this month. He went 8-for-28 (.286) with four homers, six RBIs and a 1.025 OPS in his first seven games since the break.
- ● Nationals righty **Cade Cavalli** allowed more than three earned runs once in his past 18 starts (none in his past eight) while going 7-3 with a 3.41 ERA (3.73 xERA), 28.2 percent strikeout rate and 11.1 percent swinging-strike rate.
- ● Though Boston's **Jake Bennett** offers little in terms of strikeouts (6.75 per nine), he is 5-0 with a 1.40 ERA (2.98 xERA, 3.00 FIP), 0.93 walks per nine and a .187 opponents' average over his past six starts.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Bulls on Paredes

Submit to jwilk@nypost.com

Don't limit your options

IF YOU want to hoist your fantasy baseball league trophy come October, building a deep, resilient rotation for the stretch run is paramount, which means taking a hard look at pitch counts, workload management and career innings ceilings.

FANTASY ALARM
Howard Bender

You have to be deeply wary of workload spikes, particularly with younger arms or pitchers returning from lengthy layoffs.

Consider pitchers like Shane Drohan or Foster Griffin. Both have delivered intriguing visual flashes and strong underlying ratios this season, but neither has a recent history of heavy workloads. Because neither pitcher has logged a 130-plus inning campaign in years, both are fast approaching their natural 100-110 workload limits for this season.

Relying on arms that face severe usage caps leaves fantasy rosters extraordinarily vulnerable to sudden September shutdowns or phantom injury stints right when fantasy playoff matchups begin.

Instead, acquiring an arm such as Trevor Rogers or taking a calculated risk on a veteran like Robbie Ray provides significantly better long-term stability.

Though Ray may carry elevated WHIP figures or game-to-game volatility coming off mixed outings, he threw more than 180 major league innings in 2025, possesses a Cy Young award on his mantle and routinely reaches 95-plus pitches per start. Similarly, Rogers demonstrated stamina by exceeding 120 innings in 2024 and hovering near 110 innings in 2025, making him far better equipped to pitch deep into September than short-burst alternatives.

Depth and availability win late-season fantasy baseball battles. Don't let a sudden September innings limit sink your rotation just as the post-season arrives. Audit your staff's workloads today, cash in on high-risk breakout arms while their trade value is peaking, and fortify your rotation with durable arms who actually will be on the mound taking quality starts when you need them most.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

ENGELBERT DODGES TALK OF FUTURE

By MADELINE KENNEY

CHICAGO — WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert sidestepped a question Saturday regarding her future.

During her annual press conference ahead of the All-Star Game, Engelbert was directly asked a yes-or-no question regarding whether she expected to be in her job at the start of the 2027 season.

CATHY ENGELBERT

"I will just continue to do my job, execute the strategy because it has been working," Engelbert said.

That line was probably the most telling part of her two-minute answer. She also highlighted some tangible examples of how the league office and its infrastructure have grown under her guidance.

"Obviously, I am so blessed to be at the helm of this league during this incredible hypergrowth period," Engelbert said. "So blessed that these players are putting a product on the court they are every night, that they stand for the values that the W has long sought for."

Engelbert's working relationship with players, especially the league's stars, has been under a microscope for quite some time. The criticism, though, intensified over the past year amid contentious negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement and now as the league faces a variety of troublesome issues, including online harassment, security concerns and officiating problems.

After last season, Lynx star Napheesa Collier blasted the WNBA for having the "worst leadership in the world." She also said the "real threat" to the league isn't money, ratings or officiating, but a lack of accountability at the top.

Several players said they don't have close relationships with Engelbert, including Liberty star Sabrina Ionescu, who said she talks with NBA commissioner Adam Silver more.

All of this has brought into question Engelbert's job security as her contract is set to expire at the end of this year, according to Front Office Sports.

Could this be it for Engelbert? Or maybe the better question is whether Engelbert is the right leader to steer the WNBA into its next chapter?

WNBPA vice president Breanna Stewart isn't sure.

"I don't know," she said. "It's not my place to say if she should be here or she should not."

Engelbert got defensive when asked about her future at the WNBA draft in April — just weeks after NBA commissioner Adam Silver appeared noncommittal when asked a similar question.

The WNBA has seen unprecedented growth since Engelbert became the league's first commissioner in 2019. She noted Saturday that the league is on pace to shatter attendance records and has already surpassed TV viewership numbers from last season.

For all the good Engelbert has done, she hasn't been perfect. The 16 percent stake sale for $75 million in 2022, viewed as a necessity at the time, has aged poorly. Her inability to form meaningful relationships with players is notable.

WNBPA president Nneka Ogwumike emphasized Friday that "The relationship between players and leadership is incredibly important."

Ogwumike said players and Engelbert are still investing in building trust.

"I'm hoping that she's felt like we've been able to do that, but I do think moving forward, we have to get better at maintaining that line of communication between players, whether it's through player leadership or even just individual players," Ogwumike said. "There's a lot of players in this league, but I want people to feel approachable, to be able to discuss things with her without having to do it in a reactive sense."

Engelbert said she's trying to toe the line of reaching out an appropriate amount but not overdoing it. She said the league sends out a lot of emails, which she noted players don't always check. She also said she reached out to players when they're being honored or after they suffer injuries.

"Everybody needs to be better at communication, I think, all the time," Engelbert said. "So we'll continue to work on that and communicate."

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HEART & HARDWARE: Liberty star Jonquel Jones celebrates with the WNBA All-Star Game MVP trophy Saturday at United Center in Chicago. Jones nearly missed the game following the passing of her aunt, but delivered a 22-point, 13-rebound performance.
Getty Images

Liberty's Jones earns All-Star MVP

WNBA NOTES

By MADELINE KENNEY

CHICAGO — Liberty star Jonquel Jones on Saturday night hoisted the All-Star MVP trophy above her head, prompting the United Center crowd to roar even louder.

Moments later, she dedicated the award to her late aunt, Marilyn Anita Knowles.

"It means a lot to win the MVP at the All-Star Game," Jones said after leading Teresa Weatherspoon's team to a 129-122 win in front of a WNBA All-Star record crowd of 19,783 fans. "There's so many great players that have come before that have done it. … New York means so much to me and every time I put the jersey on. I know that I represent a city that loves the game and players that have come before me that have really paved the way so I think it was really a big deal to come here tonight and to play in a way that represented the game well."

Jones almost didn't come to Chicago this weekend after earning her sixth All-Star selection this season because her aunt's memorial service was also Saturday. She talked with her family before deciding to play and found peace in knowing that she will be there for when they spread her aunt's ashes.

"My aunt meant a lot to me," said Jones, who fondly recalled watching her aunt cook. "She was one of the matriarchs in our family and I remember a lot of great parties, family parties, family get-togethers that happened at her house and she was so willing to bring everybody together."

Playing in her sixth All-Star game and first since 2024, Jones packed the stat sheet with 22 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists off the bench. She will receive a $20,000 prize for being named the game's MVP on top of the $15,000 bonus for participating in the game.

Fever star Caitlin Clark lauded Jones, who was her teammate for the weekend.

"JJ's incredible and she's just a good soul," Clark said. "She's a good person, she's very down to earth. She's funny, she's kind."

Jones is the fourth player in league history to win an MVP in the regular season, Finals and All-Star Game, joining Lisa Leslie, Candace Parker and Maya Moore.

The Liberty's other All-Star, Breanna Stewart, finished with six points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for Cynthia Cooper-Dyke's squad.

➤ As inconsistent officiating remains a hot topic in the WNBA, commissioner **Cathy Engelbert** announced a major investment that could help combat some of the persistent issues.

The WNBA is set to launch a centralized replay center at the start of next season, Engelbert said Saturday before the All-Star Game.

Engelbert said the league will leverage the NBA's replay center in Secaucus, N.J., allowing the WNBA to review replay situations in real time during games.

"This is one of the most significant investments we've ever made in our basketball operations," Engelbert said. "This investment of tens of millions of dollars will help bring greater consistency, efficiency and transparency to our officiating process while continuing to improve the quality of the game."

Engelbert said the league is still finalizing the replay center's operational details.

Mike Vaccaro

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OPEN MIKE

PERFECT MOMENT

Surpassing excellence does not happen often

NOTHING BETTER: Nadia Comaneci scored a series of perfect scores in the 1976 Olympics, the first to do so. There haven't been many other "perfect" sports performances or seasons since, which is what makes those that were so special, writes Mike Vaccaro. Getty Images

THIS was when the Olympics still mattered more than anything else in sports, even during the heart of a summer when the Yankees were pushing their way toward their first postseason appearance in 12 years.

This was the summer of 1976, and every night there was only one place to be in primetime: In front of your television, watching the Games of the XXI Olympiad live from Montreal. Bruce Jenner was the big American star in those Olympics, becoming the 10th U.S. man to win the decathlon and landing on Wheaties boxes for the next 20 years. John Nabers, a swimmer, won four golds. Dean Smith and Adrian Dantley restored U.S. basketball to prominence after the crimes of 1972, winning gold.

But the biggest star was an athlete who stood only 5-foot-3. That was Nadia Comaneci of Romania, and she was all of 14 years old, and 50 years ago this month she not only achieved but made routine something athletes have been seeking since the beginning of time.

Perfection.

During the team compulsory portion of the competition, she was awarded the first perfect 10 in the history of Olympics gymnastics for her routine on the uneven bars. So certain was Omega SA — the company that made the Olympic scoreboards — that no gymnast could ever get a 10 that it couldn't appear properly on the board — but rather as "1.0." It was astonishing.

And then she did it again.

And again.

And again.

Seven times — four on the uneven bars — Comaneci got 10s.

"SHE STOLE THE SHOW," crowed the cover of Sports Illustrated, at a time when that magazine's cover was the first, last and only word about the most important sports event of the week.

"Scoring the first 10 in history was a big deal, but the fact that even an electronic scoreboard could not figure out how to put out a score, it made the story more historic," Comaneci said years later.

Well, that and the fact that perfection is almost impossible to achieve in sports, which is as much a reward for those who err the least as those who achieve the most.

That same year, after all, Indiana's men's basketball team went 33-0. They are the last men's college hoops team to ever go undefeated (and it's a neat bit of symmetry that Indiana's 2025 15-0 football team is the most recent football one).

Both Hoosiers teams prove — along with Comaneci — that perfection is not impossible, just improbable. There is a reason that the '72 Dolphins remain stubbornly proud of the 17-0 they posted that season. There's a reason why most Patriots fans you know still agonize over 18-1.

There have been over 243,000 Major League Baseball games played since 1976. There have been 24 perfect games thrown, most recently by the Yankees' Domingo Germán three years ago. That's 0.001 percent. That sounds right. It also sounds like something even the Omega SA scoreboard should be able to post.

This will be the second straight week that Vince Lombardi, Fordham class of '37, will be quoted in Open Mike, and this one is a little less earthy than the one we used last week — when he called the old NFL Playoff Bowl the "S--t Bowl." But Lombardi's respect of perfection was perfectly crystallized when he said this:

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."

Of course, the coach passed away six years before he could see Comaneci attain the unattainable. Six other gymnasts in the past 50 years have joined Nadia in the Perfect Club — including American Mary Lou Retton, who did that in both the vault and the floor exercise in Los Angeles in 1984.

Thousands of other athletes still choose to chase. They choose to dream. When Moses Malone declared the Sixers would go "fo, fo, fo" in 1983, it was just his way of saying they intended to be perfect in the playoffs; they had to settle for 12-1. The 1999 Yankees had to settle for 11-1 in their playoff jaunt, as close to perfect as that imperfect sport allows.

Maybe not perfect, no. But those teams also honored the Coach. They caught excellence.

VAC'S WHACKS

I'M OLD enough to remember when we used to celebrate athletes who did whatever they could to find even a small competitive advantage within the rules. So place me firmly on Team Cabby.

➤ Saw "The Odyssey" and loved it, and laughed out loud when one of Odysseus' men in the boat who looked just like ex-Ranger **Sean Avery** turned out to be ... ex-Rangers **Sean Avery**! His name is Laodamas (though I suspect **Marty Brodeur** might've opted for "Loudmoutheus").

➤ **Darryl Strawberry** will be signing copies of his new book "Another Life" this Friday from 6-7 p.m. at the Jackie Robinson Rotunda at Citi Field. He says, "This book isn't about homers or RBI. It's about people getting a second chance in life, just like I did. Everyone deserves that second opportunity to make something of yourself."

➤ I won't lie: I'm going to miss "The Bear" as much as any TV show from the past couple of years. Strong final season start to finish.

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Robert Feuerstein: The unexpected success of our Knicks lifted the whole city's spirits. I believe that's going to raise our expectations for the other local teams, especially the Yanks and Giants. Agree?
Vac: *I think the Yankees are going to the World Series. I'm not as bullish on the Giants, but I'd be delighted to be wrong.*

@frankboesch: I'm trying to hang in there and be a loyal Mets fan and while "Thornton, Scott/ McLean/And two days of rain" sounds promising, I can't move on from "Cohen and Stearns — and the dumpster burns."

Terry MacConnell: How about this one: "Scott, Thornton, McLean /Stearns on the next train."
Vac: *Nothing stirs the creative juices in baseball fans better and faster than updating "Spahn & Sain / And pray for rain"!*

Ralph Petti: Sat down to watch the Home Run Derby and Barry Bonds doing the color. Then I turn on MLB as they are showing the 1996 Home Run Derby instead, and they are profiling Mark McGuire. Two steroid guys overshadowing the Derby.
Vac: *I know I'm an old man yelling at clouds here, but the Derby lost its charm for me around 1993 or so.*

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT MVACCARO@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

2026 NFL TRAINING CAMP PREV

THE 5 JETS TO WATCH

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Atlantic Health
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Coach Aaron Glenn and GM Darren Mougey performed an overhaul of the team this offseason. Here are five players we are watching in camp:

By BRIAN COSTELLO

WHERE: Atlantic Health Jets Training Center, Florham Park, N.J.
OPENS: Tuesday
TICKETS: All practices open to the public have been sold out.

Edge DAVID BAILEY

There are massive expectations for a player taken No. 2 overall. Can Bailey have an immediate impact off the edge and improve the dismal defense of a year ago? That will be one of the keys to the season.

It will be fascinating to see how Aaron Glenn plans on using Bailey and Will McDonald in his defense. There are questions about both defending the run, so he may want to not use them together on running downs.

QB CADE KLUBNIK

In a perfect world, the Jets won't have to see Klubnik, a fourth-round pick from Clemson, play at all this season. But he is going to be an intriguing player to watch this summer. He impressed in the spring before back stiffness forced him to sit out the end. He could win the backup job with a strong camp and preseason.

This season will be about Geno Smith at quarterback. This preseason will be about Klubnik.

WR ADONAI MITCHELL

The Jets have been searching for a No. 2 receiver since drafting Garrett Wilson in 2022. Mitchell could be the guy to fill the job. He showed great skills last year after coming over in the Sauce Gardner trade. Now, the team needs him to turn potential into production.

Mitchell should benefit from a full offseason with the Jets and the upgrade at quarterback.

TE MASON TAYLOR

The Jets are excited about what Taylor can do in his second season, but they also drafted Kenyon Sadiq in the first round. Does that mean Taylor has a lesser role now? We'll get a feel for how offensive coordinator Frank Reich plans to deploy his tight ends during camp.

Multiple tight end sets are the rage across the NFL right now, and Reich now has the players to use plenty of two- or three-tight end formations.

CB NAHSHON WRIGHT

Wright was tied for the lead among cornerbacks with five interceptions last year for the Bears. The Jets signed him to a one-year, $3.5 million contract hoping he can help solve their interception drought of a year ago. First, he will have to beat out Azareye'h Thomas for the starting job.

Wright had a nose for the ball last year, but he is also known to give up big plays. Camp battles with Garrett Wilson and Adonai Mitchell will be fun to watch.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg; Bill Kostroun; Robert Sabo; Getty Images (2)

RYAN DUNLEAVY'S AFC EAST PRIMER

BUFFALO BILLS 2025: 12-5

COACH: Joe Brady (first year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Rochester
KEY ADDITIONS: In the two years after trading **Stefon Diggs**, the Bills paid the price for not having a true No. 1 receiver. Enter **DJ Moore** off a career-worst season with the Bears. Edge rusher **Bradley Chubb** changed sides in the division, leaving the Dolphins. The secondary should have more bite with the additions of CB **Jay Alford** and trash-talking S **C.J. Gardner-Johnson**. LG **Austin Corbett** will compete to start.
KEY LOSSES: LG **David Edwards** (Saints) and CB **Taron Johnson** (Raiders) secured big paydays. QB **Mitch Trubisky** left **Josh Allen**'s side for the second time to reunite with coordinator **Brian Daboll** in Tennessee. FB **Reggie Gilliam**, one of the best at a dying position, joined the rival Patriots.
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: Promoted from offensive coordinator, Brady has one way to be successful: Get over the hump to a Super Bowl. How will the first-time head coach juggle all his new responsibilities? New defensive coordinator **Jim Leonhard** — an NFL first-timer — swapped out a 4-3 base front for a 3-4, so some former starters could learn that they do not fit. There will be position battles at left guard, cornerback, punter and backup quarterback, where either **Kyle Allen** or **Shane Buechele** will be one snap away from replacing MVP candidate **Josh Allen**.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 14-3

COACH: Mike Vrabel (second year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Foxborough, Mass.
KEY ADDITIONS: Never stop supporting your young QB, and NFL MVP runner-up **Drake Maye** now is throwing to WRs **A.J. Brown** and **Romeo Doubs**, with OL **Alijah Vera-Tucker** and rookie OT **Caleb Lomu** adding protection. FB **Reggie Gilliam** should bolster the complementary running game. S **Kevin Byard**, who led the NFL with seven interceptions last season, comes over from the Bears. DT **Dre'Mont Jones** (Ravens) is expected to hurry some throws.
KEY LOSSES: WR **Stefon Diggs'** 1,000-yard season wasn't enough to keep him from being released in favor of trading for Brown. OLB **K'Lavon Chaisson** passed through for one year and revived his career (Commanders). QB **Josh Dobbs** wasn't re-signed, as **Tommy DeVito** earned a promotion to second-stringer. DT **Khyiris Tonga** (Chiefs), ILB **Jahlani Tavai** and S **Jaylinn Hawkins** (Ravens) are gone from the middle of the defense.
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: It was a tumultuous personal offseason for Vrabel, who still could face more questions about accountability and tampering based on his relationship with NFL reporter **Dianna Russini**. If Maye was a stud last season, training camp should offer a taste of what could be with better playmakers. Super Bowl losers have a long history of regressing, but the Patriots could use the notion that they were a fluke, whose success was inflated by an easy schedule, as extra motivation. Does LT **Will Campbell** look improved after allowing nine sacks as a rookie? CB **Christian Gonzalez** is in a contract dispute with hold-in potential.

MIAMI DOLPHINS 7-10

COACH: Jeff Hafley (first year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Miami Gardens, Fla.
KEY ADDITIONS: Hafley and new general manager **Jon-Eric Sullivan** — both Packers exports — brought with them **Malik Willis** as their first franchise quarterback. They selected an NFL-biggest 13-player draft class — including top 43 picks OT **Kayden Proctor**, CB **Chris Johnson** and LB **Jacob Rodriguez**, and starting TE **Will Kacmarek**. **Jalen Tolbert**, **Tutu Atwell**, and rookies **Caleb Douglas** and **Chris Bell** are in a crowded WR mix. Edge rusher **Josh Uche** is far removed from his 11.5-sack season.
KEY LOSSES: The new regime's housecleaning was thorough, starting with QB **Tua Tagovailoa** despite an NFL-record $99.2 million dead salary-cap charge. It included the former dynamic WR duo of **Jaylen Waddle** and **Tyreek Hill**, as well as TEs **Darren Waller** and **Julian Hill**. The offensive line will look different without **Cole Strange** (Chargers), **Larry Borom** (Lions) and **James Daniels**. A couple of defensive stars landed in the division: **Bradley Chubb** (Bills) and S **Minkah Fitzpatrick** (Jets).
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: Is the tank on? Or is this journeyman-loaded roster capable of winning more games than expected? That largely depends on whether Willis — whom the Titans once gave up on as a future quarterback after just three career starts — is ready to be an above-average starter and hold off the 2027 quarterback draft chatter. It won't be easy with this unproven receiving corps led by **Malik Washington**. The pass rush-light defense needs former first-round picks **Kenneth Grant** and **Chop Robinson** to progress.

Malik Willis

Getty Images

JETS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB:	**Geno Smith**, Bailey Zappe
WR:	**Garrett Wilson**, Tim Patrick
WR:	**Adonai Mitchell**, Isaiah Williams
WR:	**Omar Cooper Jr.**, Arian Smith
RB:	**Breece Hall**, Braelon Allen
TE:	**Kenyon Sadiq**, Mason Taylor
LT:	**Olu Fashanu**, Max Mitchell
LG:	**Dylan Parham**, Xavier Newman
C:	**Josh Myers**, Liam Fornadel
RG:	**Joe Tippmann**, Anez Cooper
RT:	**Armand Membou**, Chukwuma Okorafor

DEFENSE	
OLB:	**Joseph Ossai**, David Bailey
DT:	**T'Vondre Sweat**, David Onyemata
DT:	**Harrison Phillips**, Jowon Briggs
OLB:	**Will McDonald**, Kingsley Enagbare
ILB:	**Demario Davis**, Marcelino McCrary-Ball
ILB:	**Jamien Sherwood**, Mykal Walker
ILB:	**Kiko Mauigoa**, Chase Wilson
CB:	**Brandon Phillips**, Qwan'tez Stiggers
CB:	**Nahshon Wright**, Azareye'h Thomas
FS:	**Andre Cisco**, Malachi Moore
SS:	**Minkah Fitzpatrick**, Dane Belton
NB*:	**D'Angelo Ponds**, Jarvis Brownlee

SPECIALISTS	
K:	**Jason Sanders**, Cade York
P:	**Austin McNamara**
LS:	**Thomas Hennessy**

** nickelback sometimes part of starting package*

Players, staff, approach all change as Jets eye Year 2 rebound under Glenn

SECOND THOUGHTS

NEW YORK POST

The Best Sports In Town

I DReAM of GeNo

Glenn believes Smith can grant Jets passage into 'promised land'

PAGES 54-55

AGENTS OF CHANGE: Jets coach Aaron Glenn (right) and GM Darren Mougey will send a new-look team to the field this season, including new QB Geno Smith (inset), hoping for much better results.

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Are you ready for Aaron Glenn 2.0?

The Jets coach did some soul searching after his first season on the job resulted in a 3-14 record with embarrassing results on both offense and defense. He made massive changes to his coaching staff, including replacing both coordinators. He is taking over defensive play-calling. Glenn and GM Darren Mougey reshaped the roster, adding some proven veterans to a squad that was very young last year. Glenn also has shown a more thoughtful, less abrasive side of himself with the media.

Now, we get to see what the 2026 Jets look like. They report to training camp in Florham Park on Tuesday, with their first practice on Wednesday. We know this is a new team. We'll find out if it is an improved one.

"I think we've made a ton of progress," Glenn said this spring, "and I will go back from right after the season and me evaluating myself. The things that I want to get better at, the things that I want to do, the direction I want this team and organization to go in.

"But, between myself and the players, this is just not me, myself and the players, we want to get to the point that we love exactly where we're at and we know that takes time. And we'll see that happen as we get into training camp."

The biggest on-field change is the return of Geno Smith as the team's quarterback. The 2013 second-round pick returns after 10 years on other teams. He replaces Justin Fields, who was ineffective last year. As long as he stays healthy, Smith will be the fifth different opening day quarterback the Jets have had in six years — joining Fields, Aaron Rodgers, Joe Flacco, Zach Wilson and Sam Darnold.

The 35-year-old Smith is well traveled and more seasoned than the player who spent two years as the Jets starter to begin his career. Glenn expressed the ultimate optimism in Smith this spring.

"I just feel like he's the guy that's going to lead us to the promised land," Glenn said at the league meetings in March.

Fans will settle for competency. The team's offense has been abysmal for a decade. But they have added talent and have an interesting core of skill players led by Garrett Wilson and Breece Hall. Those two are now complemented by Adonai Mitchell, Omar Cooper Jr., Mason Taylor and Kenyon Sadiq. The team's offensive line, spearheaded by tackles Olu Fashanu and Armand Membou, looks like the strength of the team.

On defense, the makeover is just as drastic. A unit that allowed the most touchdowns and had the fewest interceptions — an NFL record zero — needed massive changes. Glenn and Mougey set out to add a veteran presence to the defense, and they brought in linebacker Demario Davis, safety Minkah Fitzpatrick and defensive tackle David Onyemata to add leadership to the group.

Though the older veterans will be a key part of the defense, No. 2-overall draft pick David Bailey will be one of the storylines of summer. The Jets took him over

KEY DATES

Fri., Aug. 14, 7 p.m.
Preseason:
Buccaneers at Jets

Wed., Aug. 20, 7 p.m.
Preseason: Jets at Steelers

Fri., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Preseason:
Giants at Jets

Sun., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Week 1:
Jets at Titans

Bill Kostroun

Arvell Reese in April, and that decision will be scrutinized for years. That begins when the team puts on pads in camp then plays preseason games.

The players will get plenty of attention in camp, but there is no doubt who is under the most pressure this season. Glenn, who was a star player for the team, flopped in his first season as head coach. In March he was asked how often he thinks about turning around the franchise and ending the 15-year playoff drought.

"Every day," Glenn said. "There's a couple things I think about on a daily basis. I think about the players every day. I think about — I really, really think about this, this is not just coach speak — how do I utilize every player we have on this roster to help us be successful? What are the things I have to make sure [of to] get over that hump? Because I've been a part of it, and there's no better feeling in the world than, we're downtrodden for a number of years, and then we finally get over that hump and we're moving. Then it's: How do we keep that sustainable for years to come? I want to leave a legacy, I do. When I'm gone, I'm looking at this team being a team that consistently puts itself in a place to win."

➤ The Jets put NT T'Vondre Sweat on the non-football injury list. WR Tim Patrick and edge Tyler Baron were placed on the PUP list.

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Silence is golden for Gang Green

Mike Vaccaro

IT'S QUIET. It's very quiet. Sometimes, that level of quiet can be disconcerting. Sometimes it makes you wonder if something is off, if something is amiss, if something's wrong.

This quiet is OK, though.

The Jets have had enough noise the past few years. There was the Aaron Rodgers carnival, which was a cacophonous funhouse all its own. There have been high-profile flame-out kid quarterbacks. There have been coaching changes. There have been high draft picks who weren't quite what they were supposed to be.

There have been losses, lots and lots of losses, so many losses, so much failure, so much ineptitude, all of it soundtracked with a chorus of anger and venom and fury.

And now ... there is quiet.

The Jets will open training camp this week, and they will do it in the most tranquil way possible. And it's not just that they're supposed to be a bad team this year — and, make no mistake, that sure seems to be the way this is all headed. It sure seems like 7-10 would be treated like a glass ceiling has been shattered. But most fans came to terms with that a long time ago.

So there is little rancor.

There is little enmity, less tension.

Across town, the Giants have been roaring for months. They made the star-studded coach hire. They have the flashy quarterback who relishes the glamour and the spotlight and all it brings. They have the running back who makes you either want to wince or pump your fist, depending on your mood that day.

They've had one high-profile intramural controversy, and lived to tell about it.

They're the one whose star defensive player demanded exile, and for whom exile was granted.

And they are the ones around whom so much of the hope in this New York football season is based. The Giants are the ones expected to be better than their expectations, certainly better than their recent past. They are the ones for whom 7-10 would not be anything close to a celebration. They suck all the football energy out of the city and the suburbs. They are both Giants and giants, relative to the other team in town.

There's almost none left for the Jets.

And you know something?

That's OK, for now. It is. The Jets learned hard lessons the past few years that being the focus of the city's attention isn't always what it's cracked up to be, especially if things go sideways. The Mets can offer a helpful reminder of that, but the Jets don't really need the prompting. They've been absent the playoffs for a decade and a half. The kind of noise that generates isn't one that's easy on anyone's ears.

So the Jets will try to build away from the glare. They are run by a smart fellow, Darren Mougey, who has as high an approval rating as a man can have when his career record as a general manager is 3-14. His wheeling and dealing resulted in multiple first-round picks. He seems to have a plan. He speaks about building a football team the way others talk who've done that before him. He instills and inspirers confidence.

That will eventually have to yield tangible results. For now, professionalism in the top chair is enough.

That goes for the quarterback of the moment, too. Nobody is expecting Geno Smith to author anything resembling a Cinderella story this year, in his second term with the Jets. The bar — and it might be the lowest bar in football — is simply to be better than the amalgamation of awful QBing the Jets suffered through last year — led by, but not limited to, Justin Fields.

If there will be hand-wringing this season — or, for the optimists in the crowd, an unexpected surprise — it will surround the head coach. Aaron Glenn had what can most generously be termed a "difficult" rookie year on the job. A lot of things went badly for him, perhaps most hilariously the fact that this three-time Pro Bowl cornerback with 41 career interceptions to his name oversaw a defense that set a record that will never be broken — 17 games, zero picks.

Again, nobody is expecting miracles from Glenn, either. Just basic competence. There needs to be a sign that the Jets have the right man installed there. And again, it's a low, low bar.

But, then, that's how so much of Florham Park is going to be, all across training camp, all through the preseason, across all 17 games. Let the Giants have all the attention and most of the headlines. If the Jets actually build something real in the solitude of silence, that will be a successful season. You'd sign up for that, right?

mvaccaro @nypost.com

Geno Smith

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

Dennard WILSON

New Giants defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson tackles some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby ahead of the start of training camp.

Q: Describe your "Giants life" Super Bowl speech at the team meeting.
A: Coming here and being a guy that's on the East Coast, what I was basically telling them is that it's the New York Giants, the names, it's everything that comes with being a Giant ... Like, it's not acceptable [to miss] the playoffs. This organization has won championships, and that's what it's about. We're doing this to go win, and we're doing it to go win together, and whatever it takes to get there, this is what the fans want and this is what the former players want. This is how this organization's built. To me, it was like nostalgic being here talking about the New York Giants.

Q: What stuck out to you about the Giants' defensive tradition?
A: To me it's the violence in which they played. They played with reckless abandon ... organized chaos. They pursued the ball, and obviously they were effective hitting the quarterback. I grew up watching the NFC East — they were feared. It's certain teams when you've been in those buildings, there's a standard in which you live up to. The Giants have been built on having great defenses and being ferocious and playing with an edge.

Q: Can your defense be feared?
A: If we put in the work, and everybody has the same mindset ... if everybody's "mission over men."

Q: You've referenced Gen. George Patton in the past.
A: He said nobody ever defended anything successfully. It's only attack and attack some more. To defend something, you're playing on your heels. When you attack, the attackers are still going forward, are still going to press the issue. It's not all the time, like bringing more players than they can pick up, it's the way you play. It's the violence, it's the leverage. It's how you dominate or how you're holding the line of scrimmage. When you're tackling, are you tackling in a dominant position? When you look at teams that win at a high level or won Super Bowls, or won NBA championships, they don't go in prevent defense. They keep playing as hard as they can. We're trying to finish the job at hand, and finish it at all costs.

Q: Do you still subscribe to idea "defense wins championships"?
A: That's the only way I believe it works, and I believe that in all sports.

Q: How excited are you to coach a second-year Abdul Carter?
A: I'm extremely excited. Created a relationship with Abdul when I was in Tennessee. Obviously we [Titans] had the first pick [Cam Ward] where he was one of the coveted guys coming out of college. [Carter] has endless potential. He has dynamic traits. He can rush the passer. He's actually better in the run game than people give him credit. That's all about his technique and fundamentals. And he has the ability to move around a lot. You can put him in different spots. He can win one-on-ones.

Q: What stands out about him from a physical talent standpoint?
A: He can play with leverage. And to create power, you have to play with leverage and snap your hips. He can do that with ease. As a pass rusher, he has very good active hands. His hand usage is extremely good. And also, he's cat quick, where he can bend a corner. If he works on the edge, it's very hard to beat him. When he finishes rushes, he always finishes with a violent rip, and what that does is it doesn't give you a full surface, it gives you half a man. His rip is unbelievable.

Q: Everyone has made the comparison to Micah Parsons.
A: You see it. But Abdul wants to be his own person. He wants to be Abdul Carter, and that's what I want him to be. Just be the best [version of himself] that he can be on daily basis and we'll get a helluva player.

Q: What have you observed about Kayvon Thibodeaux?
A: He's probably one of the hardest-working individuals that I've ever met. He is a "glue guy" from a team standpoint, from a unit standpoint. He's well-respected. He'll speak his mind. He's a guy that his teammates love being around him, and he wants somebody that's always around that's just true and honest with him ... because he's going to have some crazy questions (laugh). I think he's comfortable being around this coaching staff. We accept him for who he is and what he represents.

Q: Brian Burns?
A: Spider-man? He's a guy that's really taken over the team leadership. He's a guy that's all-in. He's receptive to coaching. He wants to win at all costs. He produced at a high level last year, and I still think that he has ability to keep doing it.

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GIANTS
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He's just another guy that's great to be around, and just hungry, just want to do something special for the Giants fans and this organization.

Q: How intriguing is it for you to mix in Arvell Reese with the pass rush unit?
A: It's a luxury. I always, from the time we started evaluating him, I always thought that he was a linebacker first, pass rusher second. He is a true linebacker, but to have the ability to blitz him with the effort and toughness that he has going forward, and then in time with his hand in the ground and let him go, it's going to be a luxury to have those guys, because at some point if they're all on the field, who are you going to give the one-on-one to?

Q: Is Tremaine Edmunds the green-dot guy?
A: He's the green-dot guy. He's done a helluva job of picking up the defense, to try to get everybody lined up. He's another guy that the players, they enjoy being around him. I've been around a lot of football teams — man, this defensive group, they love being around each other. To start a meeting, you see the high-fives and all the enjoyment, the conversations, and it's funny, it's like they just went and lifted weights together and they come in the meeting room like they hadn't seen each other. They want to see each other have success.

Q: Why will the Giants stop the run with Dexter Lawrence gone?
A: Because we're going to play fundamental football. We're going to build a wall. We're going to set violent edges, and we're going to come downhill on the second and third level. And even the corners, the corners will tackle.

Q: What are your expectations for Darius Alexander?
A: It's Year 2. As a football player, he's going to have to grow up. [Defensive line coach] Dennis Johnson has done a great job of working on his base, his technique, his fundamentals, having his feet and hands tied together. And now it's about just being gritty and grimy, having that old dirty bastard-type mentality. Because the talent is there, and it'll start to really show. I want him to be a run-stopper first before pass rusher.

NEW BLOOD: One of the goals of new Giants defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson is to get the most out of rookies like Arvell Reese (52) and Colton Hood.

Q: Who's the second cornerback right now?
A: It's open competition in that room.

Q: What are your thoughts on Deonte Banks?
A: I think he had a helluva offseason. Tae has been one of those guys that's kind of been running to coaching. He's not running away from it. He's in a different headspace. I think he's enjoying the scheme. I think the players want to see him have success. We as coaches want him to be the best version of him. To me it's not living up to the first[-round] pick. It's about him being the best player he can be. He knows that we're invested him, just like all the other players. He has a new opportunity, and he has to make the best of his opportunity.

Q: So he has an opportunity to be CB2 behind Paulson Adebo?
A: All of them have an opportunity.

Q: How about Colton Hood?
A: He loves football. He's a tough guy. Outstanding ball skills. Ultra-competitive, intelligent football player.

Q: What are your thoughts on safety Tyler Nubin?
A: He's gotten a little smaller, he's not as heavy. He's a prideful young man. He's come in with a worker's-like mentality, trying to get better every day, every rep, he listens to coaching. He does have a level of physicality as a safety. For us it's about just allowing him to grow and just be in the moment, and focus on what he needs to do and executing instead of trying to do too much. I love his personality and the way he loves football and how he goes about his business.

Q: What makes John Harbaugh special?
A: His ability to relate to people. His ability to kind of be in the moment. Nothing's ever too big, nothing's ever too small. He brings comfort communicating about anything. I think his superpower is his ability to have the right message at the right time.

Q: What are the ideal traits of a Dennard Wilson defensive football player?
A: Tough ... big ... physical ... fast ... and unapologetic.

Q: Unapologetic?
A: (Laugh) They live on the edge, they play on the edge. But they don't hurt the team.

Q: What won't you tolerate?
A: A lack of effort. I think if you don't play with effort, you're basically a traitor to your team, and your teammates. ... A lack of physicality. ... And someone that quits.

Q: How would you define mental toughness?
A: Mental toughness is having the ability to fight through anything ... to be able to go to another level when you think it's tough. For a prime example, I was at a family function the other day, and had some younger cousins that play football, and I bet them to do 50 pushups. I wouldn't take the bet right now because I can't do 50 pushups at this point. But they got to 45, and when it got tough, they couldn't get that extra five. A person that had mental toughness can block out the hurt, the pain and focus on the job at hand, that narrow scope to finish what they need to finish.

Q: Your definition of physical toughness?
A: Just a relentless ... ready to impose your will on people. Just try to run through people. And it goes back to not playing on your heels, do everything moving forward, with violence.

Q: Why will the Giants defense be a smart defense?
A: Because we always talk about in our meeting room disciple first and detail always. I don't think that you can do anything in life and not have discipline. ... When you have the discipline to do things, you're normally very detailed. It's the situational football that Harbs puts into practice plans and things of that nature so when things come up, they've already done it.

Q: Describe your motivational style.
A: I'm very direct, but I'm very honest. I'm honest with everything I say. I believe what I'm saying in front of these men. With players, you have to be able to trust to be as direct with them, and I try to continue to be my authentic self every day so they understand that I'm not changing. It's not phony. In my career, guys truly understand that t care about them first.

Q: How difficult is it to inspire, and how do you inspire?
A: It's difficult, but to me it's always having a clear message, having a clear direction on where you want to go. Not berating people or putting them down, giving them confidence, not only in themselves but each other. Building people up. People make mistakes and things happen negatively, but always communicate. You've got to look at coaching as it's not attack, it's a challenge. People don't like to mess up, and when you point it out, they feel like you're attacking them. But if you can accept it as a challenge, because a coach is challenging people to be the best they can be on their watch, and even develop habits when they're no longer with you, but they still have their habits, whether it's free agency or anything like that.

Q: Who likes to blitz more, you or Todd Bowles?
A: Probably Todd. Blitzing also it depends on your players. Because if you're going to bring more, you better be able to have the guys in the back end, the linebackers, that can execute. If you don't have those guys on the back end, then one explosive play can change a game. Also, it's how is your offense performing? You have more high risk-high-reward when you know you could score points.

Q: How heartbreaking was your injury as an undrafted free agent at Washington's 2004 training camp?
A: Oh, it was crazy. I was starting to make my way into being a key piece of the defense and how short-lived it was getting hurt [broken fibula], trying to battle my way back, and then unfortunately, having another injury [MCL tear] the next year. But it taught me a lot about myself. ... It ultimately led me to this path of coaching. My high school coach, Bill McGregor at DeMatha Catholic High School, called me at a certain point — I was past the rehab stage where I could actually walk around — and he asked me to come back and help with the DBs at DeMatha. And that's when I fell in love with coaching.

Q: Three dinner guests?
A: Muhammad Ali, Bernard Hopkins, Barack Obama.

Q: Favorite movies?
A: "Training Day," "Gladiator."

Q: Favorite actor?
A: Denzel Washington.

Q: Favorite actress?
A: Meryl Streep.

Q: Favorite entertainer?
A: Michael Jackson.

Q: Favorite meal?
A: Mexican.

Q: What do you hope Giants fans say about the personality of your defense?
A: I want them to see that they're fast, they're physical, there is no quit in them, and they'll put it on the line for the guys that's lined up next to them. And that they represent New York the right way.

Q: What would be your message to Giants fans?
A: We're going to be prideful about bringing the old-school New York Giant style of football back to the city. We're going to play hard. We're going to be relentless. We're going to be decisive in what we do. We're going to give everything we have and we're going to challenge people. And let the chips fall where they may.

THE 5 GIANTS TO WATCH

As the Giants open up training camp Wednesday, every player will want to impress the new coaching staff. Some players are established starters, others are roster locks and several need to open eyes to make the team.

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHERE: The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.
OPENS: Tuesday
TICKETS: Practices free to public, no tickets required. Offsite parking only, with shuttle service, at Harts Run lot in Caldwell, W.Va.

Greg Newsome II
Malik Nabers
Dominic Zvada
Darius Alexander

WR MALIK NABERS

Now that he avoided going on the PUP list, will we see him on the field for meaningful work at any point during the 11 days in West Virginia? The answer is ... probably. He is coming off ACL surgery, and his recovery has not gone as smoothly as many of these procedures are wont to go. The key is to get the explosive target out there ASAP and try to ensure that he does not experience any setbacks.

DT DARIUS ALEXANDER

There is a spot open on the interior of the defensive line, and it remains to be seen if Alexander in Year No. 2 can grab it. He had a lukewarm rookie season. The 2025 third-round pick has the size and physical tools to get the job done, but he needs to become a lockdown run-stopper.

CB GREG NEWSOME II

The defense must find a capable cornerback to start opposite Paulson Adebo. Newsome, a former first-round pick of the Browns signed to a one-year deal, did not live up to expectations in Cleveland and did not make a strong case for himself last season with the Jaguars. Rookie Colton Hood is waiting in the wings.

K DOMINIC ZVADA

Undrafted out of Michigan, Zvada was impressive in the spring to put himself in position to give Ben Sauls a challenge this summer. The deeper competition will come from outside the organization, as John Harbaugh puts a premium on special teams and he will find someone else if the guys in camp cannot get it done.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Odell Beckham Jr.

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post (2); Getty Images (3)

RYAN DUNLEAVY'S NFC EAST PRIMER

DALLAS COWBOYS

COACH: Brian Schottenheimer (second year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Oxnard, Calif.
KEY ADDITIONS: One year after trading edge rusher **Micah Parsons** to the Packers, the Cowboys acquired edge **Rashan Gary** (7.5 sacks) from the Packers. To fix a dreadful passing defense, the Cowboys targeted three safeties — free agents **Jalen Thompson** and **P.J. Locke**, and rookie **Caleb Downs**, who stunningly slipped to No. 11 in the draft because of positional devaluation — and CB **Cobie Durant**. The Cowboys' second first-round pick was edge Malachi Lawrence.
KEY LOSSES: The defensive front seven is undergoing a makeover without DTs **Osa Odighizuwa** (49ers) and **Solomon Thomas** (Titans), LBs **Logan Wilson** and **Kenneth Murray**, and edges **Jadeveon Clowney** and **Dante Fowler Jr.** Special teams ace **C.J. Goodwin** joined Wilson in retirement. S **Donovan Wilson** was squeezed out by the secondary changes.
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: There's a battle at left tackle between disappointing former first-round pick **Tyler Guyton** and **Nate Thomas**, with **Taylor Decker** looming as a possible free-agent solution. The Cowboys have offensive continuity — all 11 starters, including Guyton, return — but are learning a new 3-4 defense under first-time coordinator **Christian Parker**. WR **George Pickens** agreed to play on the franchise tag after his first-team All-Pro season, but what does that mean for his effort level if he feels the slightest injury? QB **Dak Prescott** underwent personal turmoil when his engagement to his children's mother ended. Will it affect his play?

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

COACH: Nick Sirianni (sixth year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Philadelphia
KEY ADDITIONS: Filling an **A.J. Brown**-sized hole is a task for a receiver committee, including **Dontayvion Wicks, Marquise "Hollywood" Brown, Elijah Moore** and rookie **Makai Lemon.** Edge rusher **Jonathan Greenard** arrives off a down year after tallying 24.5 sacks over 2023-24. CB **Riq Woolen** should be motivated on a one-year prove-it deal. A suddenly crowded quarterback room includes second-stringer **Andy Dalton** and rookie **Cole Payton.**
KEY LOSSES: Brown forced his way to the Patriots, which should create more locker-room harmony at the cost of his annual 1,000-plus yards. The Eagles were outbid by the Panthers when trying to retain trade rental edge **Jaelan Phillips.** Super Bowl winners LB **Nakobe Dean** (Raiders) and S **Reed Blankenship** (Texans) cashed in as first-time free agents. Edge **Brandon Graham** would be welcomed back but he could be on the Roger Clemens Half-Retired Plan.
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: The **Jalen Hurts**-Eagles marriage always feels somewhat tenuous. Now Hurts is adjusting to his 10th offensive coordinator (first-timer and **Kyle Shanahan** coaching-tree branch **Sean Mannion**) in 11 years — dating to college. Who will win the backup job between Dalton and incumbent **Tanner McKee**? The NFL's best offensive line is adjusting to life without departed guru **Jeff Stoutland**, and 36-year-old stud RT **Lane Johnson** and LG **Landon Dickerson** seem to be breaking down. DT **Jalen Carter** is seeking a new megacontract and is a hold-in — or trade request? — candidate.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

COACH: Dan Quinn (third year)
TRAINING CAMP SITE: Ashburn, Va.
KEY ADDITIONS: Defense was the focus. Enter three edges — **Odafe Oweh** and **K'Lavon Chaisson**, both of whom had 7.5 sacks last season, and **Charles Omenihu** — plus ILB **Leo Chenal**, DT **Tim Settle**, CB **Amik Robertson** and S **Nick Cross**. Rookie ILB **Sonny Styles** was the apple of Quinn's eye. TE **Chig Okonkwo** and WR **Dyami Brown**, who is back after a one-year stint with the Jaguars, are the top offensive investments.
KEY LOSSES: The all-in experiment in 2025 didn't work, so 30-somethings WR **Deebo Samuel**, LB **Bobby Wagner**, edge **Von Miller**, CB **Marshon Lattimore**, TE **Zach Ertz** and RB **Austin Ekeler** (all unsigned) were jettisoned. C **Tyler Biadasz** left for the Chargers, though that's a "swap" for Oweh that they'd make again. RB **Chris Rodriguez Jr.** sought more carries with the Jaguars.
TRAINING CAMP STORYLINES TO WATCH: David Blough is making the big jump from assistant quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator to try to get 2024 Offensive Rookie of the Year QB **Jayden Daniels** back on track after his injury-disrupted second season. Who are Daniels' top weapons other than **Terry McLaurin**? Is there a legitimate No. 2 receiver among Brown, **Luke McCaffrey**, rookie **Antonio Williams**, **Jaylin Lane** and **Treylon Burks**? The running back-by-committee of **Jacory Croskey-Merritt, Rachaad White, Jerome Ford** and rookie **Kaytron Allen** leaves a lot to be desired. Quinn needs to work his magic to get the overhauled 3-4 defense to gel quickly.

Jalen Hurts

Jayden Daniels

Getty Images (2)

GIANTS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB:	**Jaxson Dart**, Jameis Winston
WR:	**Malik Nabers**, Malachi Fields
WR:	**Darius Slayton**, Darnell Mooney
WR:	**Calvin Austin III**, JuJu Smith-Schuster
RB:	**Cam Skattebo**, Tyrone Tracy Jr.
TE:	**Isaiah Likely**, Theo Johnson
LT:	**Andrew Thomas**, J.C. Davis
LG:	**Jon Runyan Jr.**, Aaron Stinnie
C:	**John Michael Schmitz**, Lucas Patrick
RG:	**Sisi Mauigoa**, Daniel Faalele
RT:	**Jermaine Eluemunor**, Marcus Mbow

DEFENSE

DL:	**Shelby Harris**, Chauncey Golston
NT:	**DJ Reader**, Leki Fotu
DL:	**Darius Alexander**, Sam Roberts
OLB:	**Brian Burns**, Khalid Kareem
OLB:	**Abdul Carter**, Kayvon Thibodeaux
ILB:	**Tremaine Edmunds**, Micah McFadden
ILB:	**Arvell Reese**, Jack Kelly
CB:	**Paulson Adebo**, Deonte Banks
CB:	**Greg Newsome II**, Colton Hood
FS:	**Jevon Holland**, Elijah Campbell
SS:	**Tyler Nubin**, Jason Pinnock
NB*:	**Dru Phillips**, Ar'Darius Washington

SPECIALISTS

K:	**Dominic Zvada**, Ben Sauls
P:	**Jordan Stout**
LS:	**Ben Mann**

** nickelback sometimes part of starting package*

WR ODELL BECKHAM JR.

Did you really think we'd get through one of these lists without including OBJ? At 33 years old, Beckham is not what he was in his first go-round with the Giants, and his legs have taken a beating. He has not been an impactful player since 2021, and staying healthy is a nagging issue. If he can, it will be fascinating to see what he has left in the tank.

2026 NFL TRAINING CAMP PREVIEW

KINGS OF NY

Dart, Harbaugh have their eyes on creating Big Blue kingdom to reign over

By STEVE SERBY

PASS HIS PRIME: New Giants coach John Harbaugh (inset) will be looking for Jaxson Dart, mingling with fans last season, to be the franchise QB Big Blue need to realize championship dreams.

Robert Sabo; Noah K. Murray

JOHN Harbaugh wanted to coach the New York Football Giants in large part because he wanted to chase his second Super Bowl championship with a quarterback he believed could win one with him.

Jaxson Dart was, and is, that quarterback.

The more Harbaugh studied Dart, the more he became convinced this was a quarterback capable of one day delivering the Giants' fifth Lombardi Trophy.

John Harbaugh is the King of the Mara Kingdom.

When you are the young, handsome Golden Boy franchise quarterback of the New York Football Giants, armed with swag and charisma and the "it" factor, driven to chase greatness, you are the Prince.

Want to mingle with the celebrities at the Garden? Want to fly to San Antonio in a private jet to cheer the NBA champion Knicks in the Finals? Want to watch the U.S. World Cup team play Paraguay at SoFi Stadium with your knockout blonde girlfriend? Care to introduce the president?

The social-media spotlight will find you, for better or for worse, when you are the young, handsome Golden Boy franchise quarterback of the New York Football Giants. For worse when you are naive to the potential for unwanted and unintended firestorms.

Harbaugh, who understandably won't publicly throw Dart overboard for his viral jump off a boat, is convinced that Dart is all-football out of the public eye and does not aspire to be the "celebrity quarterback" that was anathema to Bill Parcells. Harbaugh, skilled at keeping molehills from becoming mountains, will undoubtedly remind Dart that there is an obligatory responsibility for the NFL franchise quarterback. Dart's teammates consider him one of the guys and respect his commitment and talent.

Eli Manning arrived with the royal name, but he didn't become a star until he won his first Super Bowl at the end of his fourth season.

For Dart? Now, with a football in your hand and a franchise to lift beginning on the field Wednesday at The Greenbrier, is the time to go chase your star, kid.

Now is the time to show us the joy of "6."

Dart has offered tantalizing hints of who and what he can be.

He isn't a rookie anymore.

Harbaugh will be charged with helping Dart try to approach the kind of second-year leap that Drake Maye made last season and build the kind of lasting relationship with his quarterback that Tom Coughlin and Manning enjoyed.

Harbaugh and his collaborative offensive brain trust have drilled into Dart that there is a time and a place for making like Rambo, lowering his shoulder for an extra yard or first down and risking the wrath of the concussion police. Dart has bought in, and you will no longer hear a defiant "this isn't soccer" from him.

Harbaugh did not win a Super Bowl with Lamar Jackson. He did win one with a young Joe Flacco.

Dart is more Jackson than Flacco. But Harbaugh will need to develop Dart into a more effective and efficient pocket quarterback who can manage the game under center for the best of both possible worlds.

"I want to be a Super Bowl-winning quarterback and have that relationship with my head coach," Dart told The Post over the offseason. "I'm excited to go chase that and go make things happen with Coach Harbaugh."

One of the Parcells Quarterback Commandments: "We need battlefield commanders who are willing to fight it out, every day, every week and every season, and lead their team to win after win after win."

Dart has revealed himself to be a battlefield commander. His raging competitiveness and fearlessness are applauded by a fanbase desperately craving hope. He wants to be the straw that stirs the drink. He is obsessed with being among the elite with what Harbaugh would call an enthusiasm unknown to mankind.

Dart (15 TDs, five INTs, 487 rushing yards with nine TDs) finished 4-8 as a starter in 2025. He has a new system to learn. There will be added pressure on him to make everyone around him better while Malik Nabers (surgical knee) continues his recovery. Nabers avoiding the PUP list could give him a chance to play Week 1 against the Cowboys.

Harbaugh and GM Joe Schoen gifted him help with power broker RG Sisi Mauigoa, and towering targets Malachi Fields and Isaiah Likely.

Harbaugh likes to talk about Dart being able to live in different worlds as a quarterback. Mauigoa will help him live in the bully ball world carving a path for Cam Skattebo & Co. Nabers will help him live in the dynamic electric world as long as Dart's deep ball improves. There is Dart's off-platform and RPO world.

John Mara regretted the turbulence that Daniel Jones endured under three head coaches. The $100 million coach won't be going anywhere. Dart has the right head coach. Now is the time for the Prince to prove to the $100 million King that he indeed has the right quarterback.

steve.serby@nypost.com

Giants to kick off first camp under new coach

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

Let's get this out of the way from the start: The Giants are not picking up their entire football operation and moving it from East Rutherford, N.J., to White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., because new head coach John Harbaugh's vision for training camp is to take his guys far from home for the purpose of hunkering down and getting after it this summer.

Nope. That is not it at all.

Ongoing renovations and upgrades to the team facility made it imperative that Giants get away from their building for the start of camp. Plus, the massive World Cup infrastructure erected outside MetLife Stadium included areas around the Giants' complex, making it impossible, logistically, to hold camp there.

So the Giants will hit the road for their first off-site training camp since 2012, when they finished up their nearly two-decade monthly habitation at the University at Albany.

So, this is not a brainchild hatched in Harbaugh's head designed to set a tone for his first Giants camp. This is a move born out of necessity, and Harbaugh has chosen to embrace it. What better way to get down to business than to take his team 470 miles away from its home base, to somewhere that can be described as in the middle of nowhere?

Normally, the Giants housed their players at a hotel near the team complex for the duration of training camp. The daily schedule was regimented, to be sure. This will be an even more cloistered experience, although staying at The Greenbrier, self-described as "America's Resort" — a National Historic Landmark situated among the Allegheny Mountains — cannot be construed as roughing it. There are football facilities on the stately, 11,000-acre grounds, and the Saints, Texans and Browns previously held camps there.

"I look at it like a real opportunity," Harbaugh said. "It's going to be a chance to get locked in. It's a simple place to be, you know.

"That bonding opportunity … guys aren't going home. They're going to be with each other into the evening, stuff like that, go to dinner together. I think it's a real plus for us. I'm excited about it."

The Giants will stay at the luxurious Greenbrier for 11 days, and Harbaugh will hold practice 10 of those days. The team arrives Tuesday and the first practice is Wednesday afternoon. There will be four consecutive days of practice, then one day off, then six straight days of practice. Six consecutive days is the maximum allowed in the collective bargaining agreement. Harbaugh is known to oversee a demanding camp and the Giants will see this for themselves.

"Nobody works their players harder, but there's a purpose behind it," NFL Network analyst and former offensive lineman Brian Baldinger told The Post. "There's certain techniques and fundamentals and knowledge that they got to have to be really good players in December. There's a new way of doing things that is going to start with hard work and long days on the field."

Harbaugh is the most notable and important newcomer on the Giants' scene, secured with a five-year, $100 million contract, the byproduct of a zealous pursuit of him following his dismissal by the Ravens after 18 years as their head coach. There is no debating Harbaugh's status as one of the league's top coaches. The Giants were a combined 7-27 the past two years, and there is nowhere to go but up for a franchise that bottomed-out, leading to Brian Daboll's firing 10 games into the 2025 season.

There is so much to get done. New offensive coordinator Matt Nagy and quarterbacks coach Brian Callahan — both former NFL head coaches — will oversee the continued development of Jaxson Dart, coming off a promising rookie season. Dart has plenty of new targets to throw to — veterans Darnell Mooney, Calvin Austin, Odell Beckham Jr., JuJu Smith-Schuster, Braxton Berrios and rookie Malachi Fields — and welcomes back his buddy, running back Cam Skattebo, whose rookie year ended prematurely after eight games due to a dislocated ankle.

It remains to be seen when wide receiver Malik Nabers, slow to recover from ACL surgery to his right knee late last October and a subsequent clean-up procedure, will be able to get on the field during camp. That he was not placed on the PUP list is an extremely positive development.

On defense, new coordinator Dennard Wilson has several pieces to incorporate and must deal with the loss of nose tackle Dexter Lawrence, traded to the Bengals after a contract impasse.

For the returning players, there is not much to fall back on, with the new coaching staff and a training camp held in unfamiliar environs.

"I think it's going to be great for us, man," said outside linebacker Brian Burns, coming off a career-best 16.5-sack season. "It's really going to be good to be able to bond and to have that — this sounds weird — alone time with each other. We can get to know each other on a deeper level."

The John Harbaugh Era is upon us.

"If you love football, you love training camp," the coach said. "I love every day waking up and starting football and doing football all day and going to sleep and waking up and doing football again. For a coach, it's the funnest thing ever. Players might not agree, but coaches do."

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KEY DATES

July 30-Aug. 1, 1:30 p.m.	Open practice
Aug. 5-7, 1:30 p.m.	Open practice
Sat., Aug. 15, 1 p.m.	Preseason: Vikings at Giants
Sat., Aug. 22, 4 p.m.	Preseason: Giants at Dolphins
Fri., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.	Preseason: Giants at Jets
Sun., Sept.. 13, 8:20 p.m.	Week 1: Cowboys at Giants

Brian Burns
Cam Skattebo

Corey Sipkin; Noah K. Murray

Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

WISH UPON STARS

Wouldn't it be great if sports smartened up?

WHAT AN HONOR: Knicks owner James Dolan finally got to celebrate a championship with his team this past season. Now, he should welcome back former announcer Marv Albert and honor him and the Garden, writes Phil Mushnick. Jason Szenes; Getty Images

EXCUSE this self-indulgence, but I need to update my Wish List:

I wish, in Howie Rose's final season, the Mets had provided him more opportunities to, "Put it in the books."

I wish that live baseball fans would stop booing every time a visiting pitcher throws to first to keep the runner close.

I wish Keith Hernandez would one day turn to Gary Cohen and politely tell him to "shut up."

I wish that just one NFL pregame show was actually worth watching.

I wish that St. John's basketball fans would wake up to realize exactly what they're rooting for and why.

I wish that Doc Emrick hadn't retired.

I wish that play-by-play men who claim to have idolized Vin Scully also tried to emulate him.

I wish that now that Jimmy Dolan chose to pose with one of his teams — timing is everything! — he'd stow his pettiness to hold a real-deal Marv Albert Night, rafters banner and all, in salute to his 55 years as the cherished Voice of New York Sports. He's 85.

I wish that Dave Portnoy would realize that he's a self-absorbed megalomaniac. Same with the media, as per Portnoy's complaints about the refs after placing large losing bets.

I wish everyone laid off from ESPN last week avoided watching ESPN's WNBA All-Star coverage from Chicago, where *four* female ESPN employees sat on a set to preview the flippin' 3-point shooting contest!

I wish I knew something about the genius of Carlos Beltran that makes him a great candidate to potentially manage the Mets.

I wish Fox's No. 1 guy Gus Johnson knew more about the sports he's assigned to call. If he only knew what he was screaming about, he might scream less.

I wish that Yankees president Randy "the Thought of Losing Baseball Turns My Stomach" Levine sits down to watch a Yankees game and can't find it anywhere, no matter how much extra it costs.

I wish that a $1.8 billion fine his hedge fund received for doing crooked business would have been enough to disqualify Steve Cohen from owning the Mets and a nearby we-trade-on-trust casino. But not on Rob Manfred's weak watch.

I wish that NFL telecast directors were forced to seat their families among the drunk and disorderly that they chose to focus on as worthy of our delighted attention.

I wish Roger Goodell's NFL came down as hard on women-beaters as it does on "hands to the face" calls.

And I wish our sports commissioners actually represented the best interests of the public rather than the best financial interests of team owners, a worsening reality.

I wish we could tune to a Yankees radio telecast and not have to wish we hadn't. "This pitch is sponsored by, Pluck 'n Flick, the official nose-hair cutter of the New York Yankees' radio network."

I wish that NBC would produce an Olympics that didn't include Snoop Dogg, or at least list his many arrests and note his past affiliation with the Crips.

I wish replay rules were used only as intended, not to inspect, at great delay, tiny, at most, evidence that still may get it wrong.

I wish ESPN would just tear it all up and start over, sans pro wrestling and bad-guess race-hustlers.

I wish the sports media would not be so disinclined to report the truth. What's the worst that could happen?

All Bronx recyclables are created equal!

IT WAS with a crooked smile that I read in last week's Post that tens of thousands of recyclables have been dumped into garbage landfills by MTA workers.

I was in Yankee Stadium one night when I went to throw a wrapper into a waste bin with two portals. One read, "Recyclables" the other read "Paper."

Upon placing the wrapper into the "Paper" opening, I looked deeper into the bin to find that *all* the refuse fed into one large trash bag.

➤ The Old Sandwich Play:

Last week wrote about two episodes in which the last name of White could lead to thoroughly unintended and even comical — if one has a sense of humor — racial issues.

Reader **Lenn Ramanauskas** has his own: He was caching 8-year-old baseball novices and had a big late-game lead, thus he didn't want to rub it in. The kid on second was named named **Phil DeMeo**.

The next batter singled, so Ramanauskas hollered to his third base coach, "Hold DeMeo! Hold DeMeo!"

The assembled thought he'd ordered a hero sandwich — for delivery!

➤ RB **Le'Veon Bell** was signed by then-Jets GM **Mike Maccagnan** in 2019 after proving himself a steady reprobate and loudmouth with the Steelers. **Joe Douglas**, hired soon after to replace the fired Maccagnan, then made the hollow declaration that the Jets would concentrate on obtaining "high character players."

Last week Bell, Michigan State man who made $50 million as an NFL pro, was arrested for failing to make $50,000 worth of child support payments. Bell, who has seven children with six different women, was ordered by a civil court to pay $25 million in a domestic abuse case in March 2025.

But he's apparently broke. I guess his kids will become wards of the state. This is what **Roger Goodell**'s large end zone message must mean, the one that reads, "It takes all of us."

MLB is the worst teacher

READER **Tom Liquori** sent a video clip of an organized league softball player, a girl of about 13, scoring from home on a botched play. She stopped at first to mock the fielder, then, after scoring, rose to mock the catcher.

She must be a big fan of **Rob Manfred**'s MLB Network, the one that regularly rewards bat-flippers in tribute to their rank immodesty.

Our learned pitching prof **Jim Curnal** cites sports medicine stats reporting that 57 percent of athletes who undergo Tommy John surgery are teens — many schooled to try to throw the ball through cement walls and practice using heavily weighted baseballs.

One disappointment after another for Mets fans. **Ed Charles**, presumably named for "The Glider," running at Saratoga last week finished fourth.

Former Knicks trainer **Mike Saunders** — fired shortly after paranoic **James Dolan** took over as Saunders was suspiciously popular with players, media and fans — is living in Florida, and still performing physical therapy.

Loved unknown New Zealand vet **Ryan Fox**. 39, winning the British Open. The man plays fast, thus minimizing the blab among American TV announcers who knew almost nothing about him, anyway.

Though NBC's British Open announcers and an R&A exec said the course at Royal Birkdale was in great shape — when do TV folks report otherwise? — the links track looked terribly burnt out, so much so that balls in the fairways disappeared in a landscape of flat light brown. The only green was seen on the greens.

I bumped into **Brogan**, a tall guy about 26 who speaks very little English. I asked if he plays for St. John's. He said, "I tink, so. I tink dis is true." I asked him what he's majoring in. He shrugged, as if he didn't understand.

Can't wait to see what star player-hugger **Erin Andrews** is wearing for Fox's NFL opener.

MushnickPhilip@gmail.com

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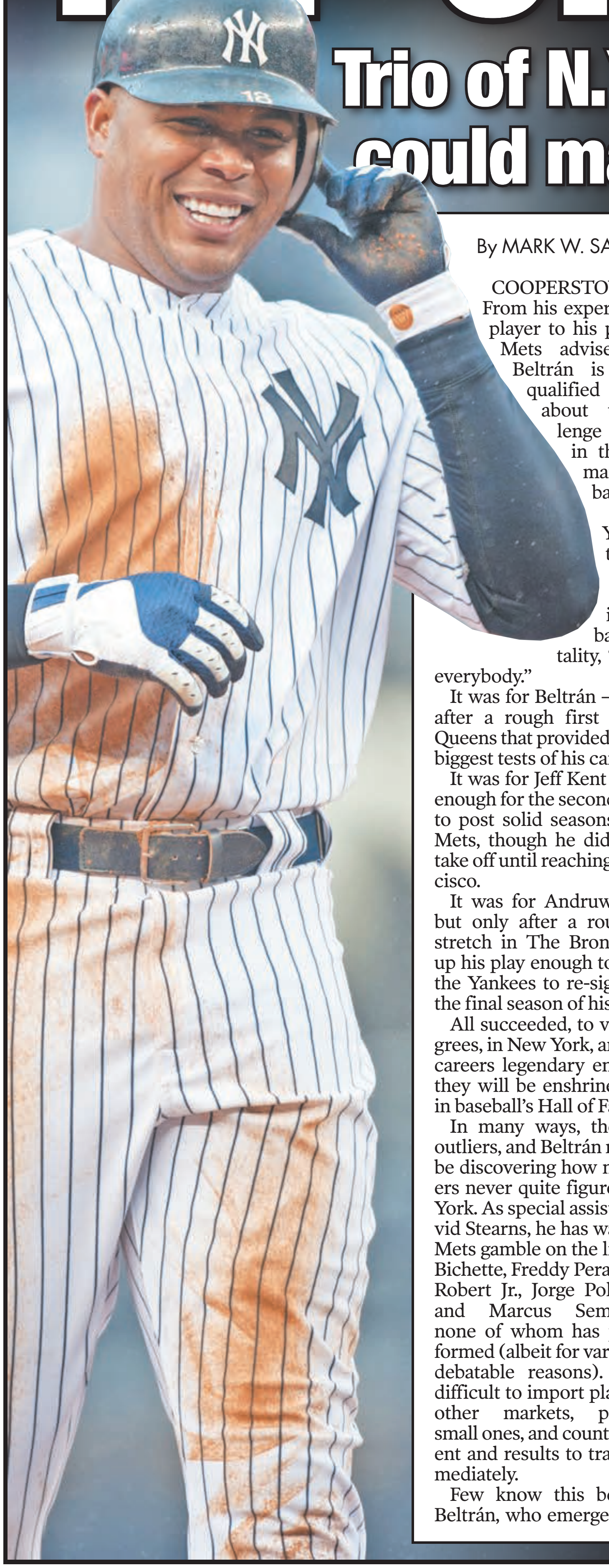
SCAN ME

TOP OF THE HEAP

Trio of N.Y. Hall of Famers proved they could make it here — and anywhere



By MARK W. SANCHEZ

COOPERSTOWN — From his experience as a player to his perch as a Mets adviser, Carlos Beltrán is uniquely qualified to talk about the challenge of playing in the biggest market in baseball.

"New York," Beltrán said on the eve of securing baseball immortality, "is not for everybody."

It was for Beltrán — but only after a rough first season in Queens that provided one of the biggest tests of his career.

It was for Jeff Kent — at least enough for the second baseman to post solid seasons with the Mets, though he did not truly take off until reaching San Francisco.

It was for Andruw Jones — but only after a rough initial stretch in The Bronx, picking up his play enough to convince the Yankees to re-sign him for the final season of his career.

All succeeded, to varying degrees, in New York, and all built careers legendary enough that they will be enshrined Sunday in baseball's Hall of Fame.

In many ways, they all are outliers, and Beltrán might now be discovering how many players never quite figure out New York. As special assistant to David Stearns, he has watched the Mets gamble on the likes of Bo Bichette, Freddy Peralta, Luis Robert Jr., Jorge Polanco and Marcus Semien, none of whom has performed (albeit for various, debatable reasons). It is difficult to import players from other markets, particularly small ones, and count on the talent and results to translate immediately.

Few know this better than Beltrán, who emerged as a star in six and a half seasons with the Royals and a half season with the Astros before signing a seven-year, $119 million megadeal with the Mets in 2005.

You know what happened next: An MVP candidate the previous two seasons was ordinary in his first with the Mets, his homers dropping from 38 in 2004 to 16 and his OPS from .915 to .744.

"If you don't understand the process, sometimes it could be overwhelming. For me, it was," said Beltrán, who recovered well enough that his Hall of Fame bust will feature a Mets hat. "Coming from Kansas City, playing in New York at the beginning, I didn't understand why the fans were getting on me. When I played in Kansas City, I never got booed. All of a sudden I'm in New York, I'm like: They booed me this whole month.

"I'm like: Oh, my God, I just signed here for seven years and these people, they have no patience with me."

In those days, Beltrán said, he didn't have anybody to guide him around the arrows and through the adversity. He had to learn for himself how to deal with the media glare and fan expectations and jeers.

The lessons he gained along the way he has shared with the Mets of today, including talking with Francisco Lindor before and after his rough first campaign with the Mets.

"It's a city where the fanbase supports their team, but at the same time they expect excellence out of the players," said Beltrán, who also played two and a half seasons with the Yankees. "They understand the game, they know how much money you're making, so they want you to earn every single penny."

His advice to those struggling to adapt?

"You're going to be fine," Beltrán said. "Keep playing hard. Keep taking care of your preparation."

Like Beltrán, Kent said he learned plenty in New York, though Kent — who found his way to Cooperstown through the Contemporary Era committee — had to master the expectations that arrive internally and externally when being traded.

Enjoying a strong rookie season with the Blue Jays in 1992, Kent was shipped (with Ryan Thompson) to the Mets for David Cone, who was in the middle of his second All-Star season.

In Kent's mind, Cone had been the Mets' best player. And so Kent tried to fill Cone's shoes.

"I just came from the American League, and so [I'm like], 'Who cares about David Cone? I'm Jeff Kent. I'm good. I can play,'" said Kent, who sparred with teammates and heard some boos from fans after an unpopular trade. "Boy, I got beat up for that one."

Kent performed with the Mets, hitting 67 home runs with a .780 OPS in four and a half years before being dealt to Cleveland in 1996 in the trade that brought in Carlos Baerga and Alvaro Espinoza.

And being shipped for Baerga tested Kent's ego again.

"As a player, we're cocky and arrogant enough, we need to believe that we're the best guy," Kent said. "So I had that in me, but I had to tame that a little bit and use it as a tool rather than use it as a flamboyant, drama, verbal piece."

Jones had a shorter career in New York, spending just his twilight years of 2011-12 with the Yankees. And even the veteran, a five-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove winner, needed an adjustment period.

In 2011, Jones got off to a miserable start — 36 games into his season, he was hitting .195 with a .635 OPS — but he went on a tear beginning in mid-July, a stretch that led to the Yankees bringing him back for a final season in The Bronx and in the majors.

Along with his other late-career stops, Jones said New York was "awesome."

"I have to say that New York is a great place," Beltrán said after his words of warning. "It's a place where you grow, you expand yourself, you get to meet so many great people.

"I got to meet a lot of good people in the game. And I will have to say that most of the most meaningful relationships that I built in the game, I did it wearing a Mets uniform."

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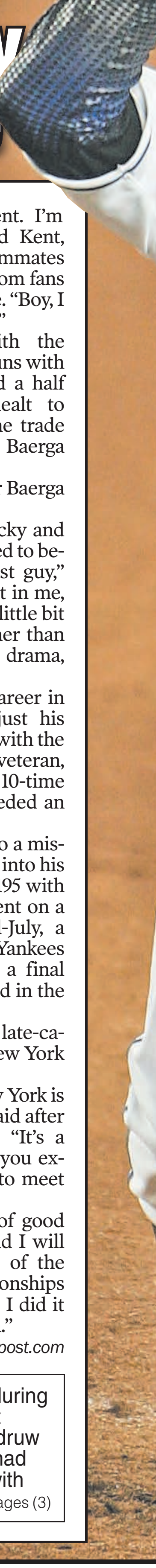

CLAIM TO FAME: Carlos Beltrán found success during his Hall of Fame career with the Mets, as did Jeff Kent (left), though he had his best years in San Francisco. Andruw Jones (far left), who played 12 seasons with the Braves, had some highlights over the final two seasons of his career with the Yankees.

Getty Images (3)

Jones still ‘shocked’ by NLCS-clinching walk in ’99

By GRACE McCARRON

Getty Images

WILD! Andruw Jones said he still can’t believe Mets lefty Kenny Rogers walked him, helping the Braves win the 1999 NLCS and advance to play the Yankees in the World Series.

COOPERSTOWN — Nearly 27 years later, Mets fans still shudder at the thought of Andruw Jones’ bases-loaded walk-off walk against Kenny Rogers in the 11th inning of the Braves’ series-clinching win in Game 6 of the 1999 NLCS.

What did the soon-to-be Hall of Famer think of the moment?

“I couldn’t believe he walked me. I try not to walk ’cause I strike out a lot,” Jones said at his pre-induction news conference Saturday. “So when he walked me, I was shocked.”

The 1999 NLCS sent the Braves to face the Yankees in the World Series, and the Yankees promptly swept Atlanta to claim their second of three consecutive world championships. The Braves led the Mets 3-0 heading into Game 4, but the Mets clawed back to make the series 3-2, losing by a hair in Game 6.

“I think if we would’ve lost that game ... it could’ve gone the other way,” Jones said. “The Mets and Yankees fans would’ve seen an earlier Subway Series.”

The following season, that scenario came to fruition, as the Mets and Yankees met in the Fall Classic for the first time in 2000. The Yankees won the title in five games, marking a three-peat for their 26th ring.

“[The NLCS] was a tough series. It drained us, to be honest with you,” Jones said. “By the time we went to play the Yankees, we got swept. We had no juice left to go play them. ... The Yankees had a great team that year.”

Jones joins several legendary Braves in the Hall of Fame on Sunday, finally gaining entrance on his ninth ballot.

The 1996 Braves have eight members in the Hall now that Jones joins Greg Maddux, John Smoltz, Tom Glavine, Chipper Jones and Fred McGriff, as well as manager Bobby Cox and general manager John Schuerholz.

“They always kept saying, ‘Hey, be patient, you’re gonna be there.’ ... Being on a ballot for nine years, you kind of watch from afar, but you’re not thinking about it because life keeps going, you know?” Jones said.

“If I made it, this is a great honor. One of the toughest Halls of Fame to go in ... but if it didn’t happen, I would have been the same person. You would have seen me walk on the street and have this joy that I always had.”

Chipper Jones talked about his joy for his longtime teammate at a Hall of Fame signing event Friday. The Joneses were teammates in Atlanta for 12 years, from 1996-2007.

“It’s been really fun to see him go through the week and the whole process. I think he had to wait a little too long to get here, but hey, you’re here now,” Chipper Jones said. “We took great pride in knowing that if people wanted to come into Atlanta and beat the Braves, they had to get the Jones boys out in the three and four hole. ... Hope he’s not the last, but we’ve had a good contingent over the last 10, 15 years.”

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Beltrán ready for his Amazin’ Cooperstown moment

By GRACE McCARRON

COOPERSTOWN — Carlos Beltrán will become just the third player to represent the Mets in the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, joining Tom Seaver and Mike Piazza in the small but mighty group.

Before Beltrán’s six years in Queens, he began his career in Kansas City after being drafted out of high school in the second round of the 1995 draft. At his pre-induction press conference in Cooperstown on Saturday, he opened up about the reception he got in each city. Beltrán would get another taste of New York when he went to the Yankees for two years in the twilight of his illustrious career.

“If you don’t understand the process, sometimes it could be overwhelming. For me, it was,” Beltrán said. “Coming from Kansas City, playing in New York, at the beginning, I didn’t understand why the fans were getting on me, while I played in Kansas City and never got booed. So all of a sudden, I’m in New York, they boo me the whole month.

“I was like, ‘Oh my God, I just signed here for seven years and these people, they have no patience with me,’ ” Beltrán continued to laughter. “[New York is] a city where the fanbase supports their team, but at the same time, they expect excellence out of the players, and they understand the game ... they know how much money you’re making, so they want you to earn every single penny.”

One of the most significant memories from Beltrán’s early career came alongside perhaps the most legendary Royal in 1999, when George Brett got his moment in Cooperstown with his induction alongside Nolan Ryan and Orlando Cepeda.

“[1999] was my first full year in the big leagues. I haven’t been able to show what I’m capable of,” Beltrán said. “I was so excited to come [to Cooperstown] because not only were we supporting George Brett, I was going to be able to meet Orlando Cepeda, who was inducted that year also.

“I have a baseball, and I’m approaching Cepeda for him to sign my baseball, and George said to Cepeda, ‘Cepeda, I’ve introduced you to the next Hall of Famer from Puerto Rico. His name is Carlos Beltrán.’ And I’m going like, what is he doing? I haven’t played a game, and you’re introducing me as a Hall of Famer. I don’t think that’s a good statement, George, and George said, ‘Well, Carlos, everything is possible in life. If you play hard and if you continue to play good and you continue to develop yourself, this is an opportunity.’ ”

Needless to say, Beltrán did nothing but seize that very opportunity, especially as a five-time All-Star with the Mets.

“I end up getting to the Hall of Fame, but I fail 72 percent of the time,” Beltrán said. “It’s a lot of pain, but at the end of the day, I have to say that New York is a great place ... most of the most meaningful relationships I built in the game, I did it wearing the Mets uniform.”

Getty Images (4)

GOING SOMEWHERE

Hardball forecasts trade deadline destinations

Joel Sherman

Hardball

ONE WEEK from the trade deadline and a group of teams was still determining whether to buy, sell, both or neither.

When I asked executives if they thought clubs would be fully declared by the end of this weekend, many forecasted yes, with a few noting a perception that the Blue Jays already were conceding and wading into the sell waters. But speaking for a few, one NL assistant GM said, "I think decisions will drag close to next weekend."

Keep in mind that the deadline is a week from Monday at 6 p.m.

The Padres with Mason Miller and Tigers with Tarik Skubal possess perhaps the two most attractive players who could be moved, and both clubs teeter in that middle ground. That freezes action somewhat, as who wants to move big items too quickly then find out you could have had Miller or Skubal? For this exercise, we are going to assume that both players are available, though a strong chance remains that one or neither moves. We will guess at a landing spot for the major potentially available players with the design being to get a feel for where this market is:

1 **Tarik Skubal, Rays:** From 20,000 feet, does a Tigers team more recently over .500 on May 3 come to believe that the best move for their near future is trading a star they will not re-sign after this season for a glittering package? Can a rotation without Skubal — but with Troy Melton, Casey Mize (also in his walk year), Keider Montero, Framber Valdez and they hope at some point back from injury Jack Flaherty, Jackson Jobe and Justin Verlander — plus a help-them-now starter in the return package for Skubal contend in 2026 while Detroit adds pieces for 2027 onward?

Tampa Bay has a go-for-it mindset, a deep farm system and is expected to be among the most active teams. They really want a catcher. Adley Rutschman is hurt, but the Rays/Orioles did a big intra-division deal in the offseason (Shane Baz), and outside teams perceive a willingness by Tampa Bay to include one of its big catching prospects (Caden Bodine or Nathan Flewelling) in the right-sized deal.

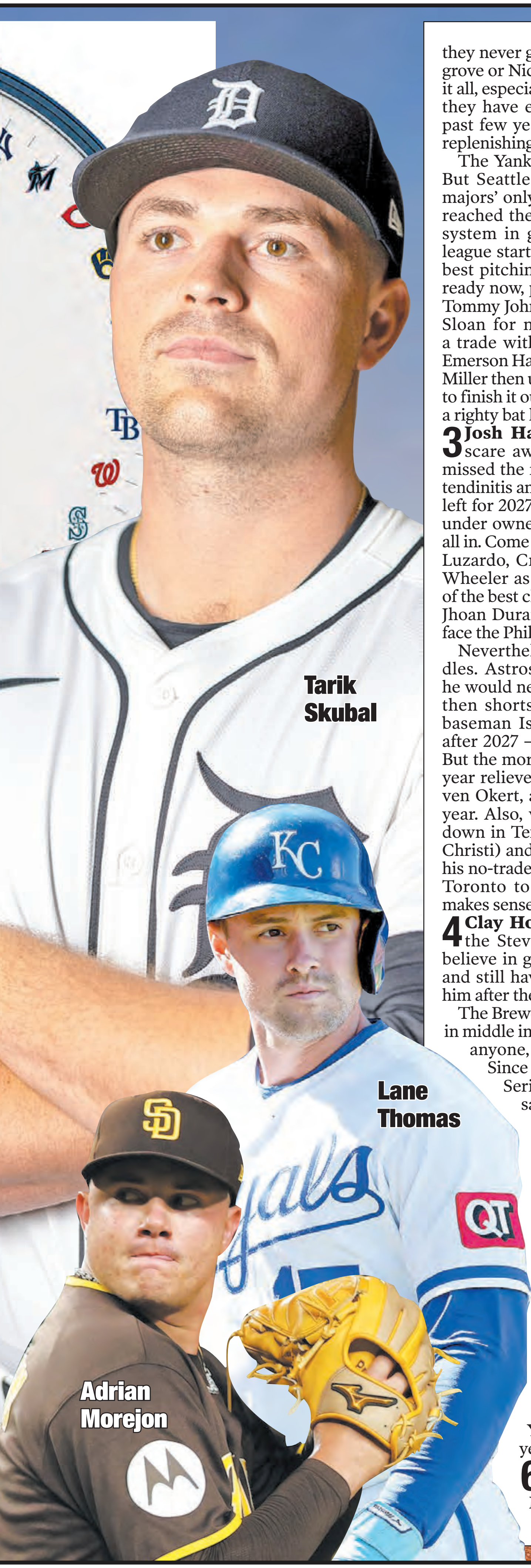
The club that unnerves everyone is the Dodgers. But the intel on the two-time defending champs is they are looking for catching help in case Will Smith (neck) does not return, and they want to use the best outfield prospect depth in the game by far (perhaps from Josue De Paula, Zyhir Hope, Eduardo Quintero or Mike Sirota) to deepen an area of need, infield prospects.

The Dodgers bulked up in the offseason partly because they view this market as particularly inefficient and want to stay out of it or be sellers. Still, other teams will believe the Dodgers are not just laying in the weeds to big-game hunt only if they have added nothing of 2026 substance by 6:01 p.m. next Monday.

2 **Mason Miller, Mariners:** There are no more hyper-aggressive heads of baseball operations than San Diego's A.J. Preller and Seattle's Jerry Dipoto. Preller does not want to concede in 2026, but the Padres have such heavy needs in their lineup and rotation (it is possible

Mason Miller
Freddy Peralta
Luke Weaver

Getty Images (4); Robert Sabo; Corey Sipkin



they never get back Yu Darvish, Joe Musgrove or Nick Pivetta) that it is hard to fix it all, especially with how many prospects they have expended chasing a title the past few years. Miller provides the best replenishing chance.

The Yankees will go hard after Miller. But Seattle — motivated by being the majors' only current team never to have reached the World Series — has a deep system in general, but with six major league starters, plus perhaps the majors' best pitching prospect, Kade Anderson, ready now, plus Logan Evans (back from Tommy John surgery) and prospect Ryan Sloan for next year, Seattle can begin a trade with, say, one of Logan Gilbert, Emerson Hancock, George Kirby or Bryce Miller then use a wealth of minor leaguers to finish it out. Seattle's other huge need is a righty bat like the Padres' Ty France.

3 **Josh Hader, Phillies:** Hader will scare away many teams because he missed the first two months with biceps tendinitis and has two years at $38 million left for 2027-28. But not the Phillies, who under owner John Middleton are always all in. Come the playoffs, if they have Jesús Luzardo, Cristopher Sánchez and Zack Wheeler as their main starters, and one of the best closing duos ever in Hader and Jhoan Duran, what team would want to face the Phillies?

Nevertheless, there are so many hurdles. Astros owner Jim Crane has said he would never rebuild. If Houston does, then shortstop Jeremy Peña and third baseman Isaac Paredes — free agents after 2027 — would be heavily pursued. But the more likely road is moving walk-year relievers like Bryan Abreu and Steven Okert, and trying to win again next year. Also, word is Hader has put roots down in Texas (his wife is from Corpus Christi) and would be reluctant to waive his no-trade clause. So maybe a deal with Toronto to reunite with Jeff Hoffman makes sense for the Phillies.

4 **Clay Holmes, Brewers:** These are the Steve Cohen Mets, so they can believe in getting a package for Holmes and still having a real chance to re-sign him after the season.

The Brewers' system is so deep, notably in middle infielders, that they can acquire anyone, including Miller or Skubal. Since they have never won a World Series, they might go for it. But I say their big-picture discipline kicks in and they see Holmes as someone who can comfortably start a playoff game. What would be hysterical is if they traded back the package, Brandon Sproat and Jett Williams, that they acquired for Freddy Peralta.

5 **Freddy Peralta, Cubs**: Chicago already has traded with the Mets for David Peterson, who has provided two strong starts and one disaster. Can the Cubs figure that outside of the Mets, Peralta is closer to last year's fifth for the NL Cy Young than the 5.01 ERA this year?

6 **Adrian Morejon, Yankees:** The Yankees want Miller if he is truly available (do Ryan Weathers, Dax Kilby, Carlos Lagrange, Wilberson De Pena get them in the game?). But Morejon, a free agent after the year, is a strong consolation prize with his high-level strikeout/ground ball penchants from the left side. Would Cleveland ever talk Cade Smith or Toronto Louis Varland?

7 **Ryan Jeffers, Yankees:** The Rays, White Sox and Dodgers want a catcher too, and all have strong farm systems. Additionally, the Twins' new control person, Tom Pohlad, does not want to give up on this year. But the Twins interestingly have kept all three of their catchers (also Victor Caratini and Alex Jackson) on the active roster (none has minor league options), so you sense that they could do a half measure without giving up. In that scenario, they would trade Jeffers in his walk year, but hold onto ace Joe Ryan (free after 2027) and Byron Buxton (two years at $30 million due after this season) with the idea that one part of a package for Jeffers would help now, particularly in their pen.

Ryan and Buxton would both command a haul. Buxton has insisted he will not forgo his no-trade clause — though you could imagine the Braves, Rays and Rangers coming hard if he did. One item on Jeffers: He is a strong two-way catcher, but does not do a good job controlling the running game.

8 **Reid Detmers, Braves:** The Cubs and Braves feel like strong NL contenders who could use multiple starters. The Angels are open for business with Detmers, José Soriano, Jo Adell and possibly Zach Neto. Is Mike Trout really going to waive his no-trade clause? Is any team willing to take enough of what is left on Trout's contract (four years at $141.8 million after this season) plus put enough in a package to move Angels owner Arte Moreno to trade the best player in franchise history?

9 **Jo Adell, Phillies:** Philadelphia was last in the majors in OPS by righty hitters and need preferably an outfield bat who can provide heft. The Phillies also would love at least one more pen piece, so could the Angels also include someone like Kirby Yates (assuming no Hader)?

10 **Luis Garcia Jr., Diamondbacks:** Arizona needs a first baseman and Garcia, in the midst of a career year, is under control through next season. The D'backs believe multiple injured pitchers will return before the end of the season, including Corbin Burnes, Zac Gallen, Justin Martinez, Ryne Nelson and Mike Soroka. Already deep in the pen, the D'backs have signalled a willingness to use depth there to improve.

11 **Kevin Gausman, White Sox:** Gausman is having the worst season in the finale of what has been a highly successful for the Blue Jays five-year, $110 million pact. Yet, he remains a durable guy who can take the ball in a big spot, and the White Sox need experience in this rotation to make a run. So would the Marlins trade Sandy Alcantara? The Giants definitely will move Robbie Ray. I heard Nationals extension talks with walk-year Foster Griffin fizzled quickly, so he is available. The Reds' walk-year Brady Singer picked a good time to get hot (2.98 ERA in his last eight starts).

Could the White Sox try to get two walk-year starters in one trade from the Blue Jays — also Shane Bieber, who turned his season around last week with seven shutout innings against the White Sox and followed that Thursday with seven one-run innings against Tampa Bay.

12 **Daulton Varsho, Guardians:** Varsho, like Bieber and Gausman, is in his walk year for the Blue Jays, as is George Springer, who is having a down season and has a complete no-trade clause. Still, there are enough teams that need righty bats that, between that and Springer's big-game experience/success, he could be desirable. The Guardians can use stability in center with the lefty-swinging Varsho. Cleveland has used an MLB-low six starters this year, so could it decide to reunite with Bieber to create depth?

13 **Tyler Rogers, Cubs:** There will be a lot of teams that see how far Toronto will go in a sale and if it will include its standout closer Varland, who would return a ton. My gut is that the Blue Jays hold onto him and at least listen on Rogers, who is due two years at $25 million for 2027-28. His ground ball penchant and the Cubs' brilliant infield defense is an ideal marriage.

14 **Shea Langeliers, Red Sox:** Boston could use an upgrade at catcher/shortstop and definitely need the righty bat that Langeliers or Angels shortstop Neto would provide. Would the Red Sox use a young starter such as Jake Bennett or Payton Tolle as the bait for one? It would sure help if the Red Sox move a starter to know if ace Garrett Crochet could return from his shoulder injury this year or to try to land a veteran starter elsewhere like San Diego's Michael King.

15 **Lane Thomas, Yankees:** The Yankees could use a versatile righty bat who particularly can hit lefty pitching. The Giants' Casey Schmitt is ideal and potentially could end up as the starting third baseman over Ryan McMahon. But San Francisco is going to have to be overwhelmed — and the Yankees should think about being overwhelming, especially if Houston never lets Peña get into the market.

Cincinnati's Spencer Steer is interesting, but the Yankees see his shaky outfield play as a detriment. If the Yankees cannot land Jeffers or one of the main choices for catcher, then Steer's walk-year teammate Tyler Stephenson could become a factor. Keep in mind that the Yankees — even in an ABS universe — heavily value framing, and Stephenson was last in framing runs (Baseball Savant) among the 61 qualified catchers. I went with Thomas from the Royals because he can play all over the outfield and has interested the Yankees previously.

16 **Luke Weaver, Red Sox:** The Pirates feel like the right team to try to land two Mets relievers like Weaver (who would close for them) and Brooks Raley. But Weaver's $11 million due next year may be too onerous for the Pittsburgh penny pinchers. Believe it or not, Pittsburgh had some interest in the Yankees' Camilo Doval, but the Yankees might have to eat money there to make that happen. The Mets will set very high prices for Weaver and Huascar Brazobán because they have control next year too, and if it is met they will move them. Devin Williams' combo of bad year and big dollars (two years at $30 million after this season) probably makes him too hard to trade. Francisco Lindor also feels like an offseason trade — if he is going to be dealt at all.

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FROM BAD TO HEARSE

Soto injury — likely out one month with calf strain — fatal blow to Mets' lifeless season

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The nightmare continues.

This already brutal Mets season continues to hit new lows.

Already a season-low 18 games under .500 in late July, the Mets found out Saturday they will be without superstar outfielder Juan Soto for at least the next month.

Soto, nursing a sore left calf, aggravated the injury while running the bases Friday night and was placed on the injured list. It is a more severe calf strain than the one to the right calf that sidelined him for just under three weeks in April. An MRI exam showed it is a Grade 2 strain, which typically takes at least a month to heal.

"It's not what we were hoping for," interim manager Andy Green said before the Mets lost to the Dodgers 4-3 at Citi Field. "He's a guy that we love having him on the field, he's a guy who loves to be on the people competing. We'll be without him for a period of time now.

"We have more people looking at the MRI right now. It's quick and a bit presumptuous to define an exact timeline. With our organization, we'll check in with experts, not just in-house, but across the world for these types of things. So we'll have more people look at this, get a better handle on how long this would be."

Green said the severity of the injury is somewhere between Soto's earlier calf strain and the one Francisco Lindor suffered, which cost him nine weeks. Asked if there is a chance Soto might not play again for the Mets this season, Green replied: "I wouldn't categorize it as that way at this point in time."

It may not make sense for Soto to return in mid-September with the Mets playing out the string. That is something the team will determine at a later date, based on how Soto progresses.

"We're all cognizant of his long-term importance to us, and we will factor that in appropriately," the manager said. "It's also good for healthy baseball players to get on the field and play baseball. We'll balance that when the time comes."

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER? Juan Soto watches the Mets play the Cubs from the dugout in June, and it's a view he'll have to get used to as he's expected to miss the next month in this lost season. Robert Sabo

Before Friday's game, Green said he thought Soto was just about ready to return to the outfield after sitting out Wednesday's loss to the Brewers. But he felt the left calf while running to second base on Bo Bichette's double-play grounder. Soto has been dealing with the calf issue since the second half resumed.

"Someone like him wants to be on the baseball field, he wants to play. The desire to be on the field is why he's so special at what he does," Green said. "So this last week we gave him at-bats, we gave him rest at times we felt was appropriate, and then yesterday he couldn't get over the hump. Is it possible we could've looked back and moved a little bit quicker on this given where we're at today? Yes. I don't know that that ultimately changes the situation we're in right now."

The Mets' lone All-Star, Soto has been one of few bright spots this season for the last-place team. He is hitting .293 with 21 homers and 52 RBIs in 84 games, along with an OPS of .947. Soto was one reason for fans to continue to follow the team, despite all that has gone wrong, along with the young players Nolan McLean, Christian Scott, Carson Benge, A.J. Ewing and Zac Thornton.

It has been a dreadful year for the Mets, who are on pace to lose 95 games — their most since the 2003 season. Injuries and underperformance have been constants.

The 27-year-old Soto has been incredibly durable throughout his nine-year career, but there is a strong possibility he could miss the most games of his career this season. His previous high was 13 in the COVID-19-shortened 2020 campaign.

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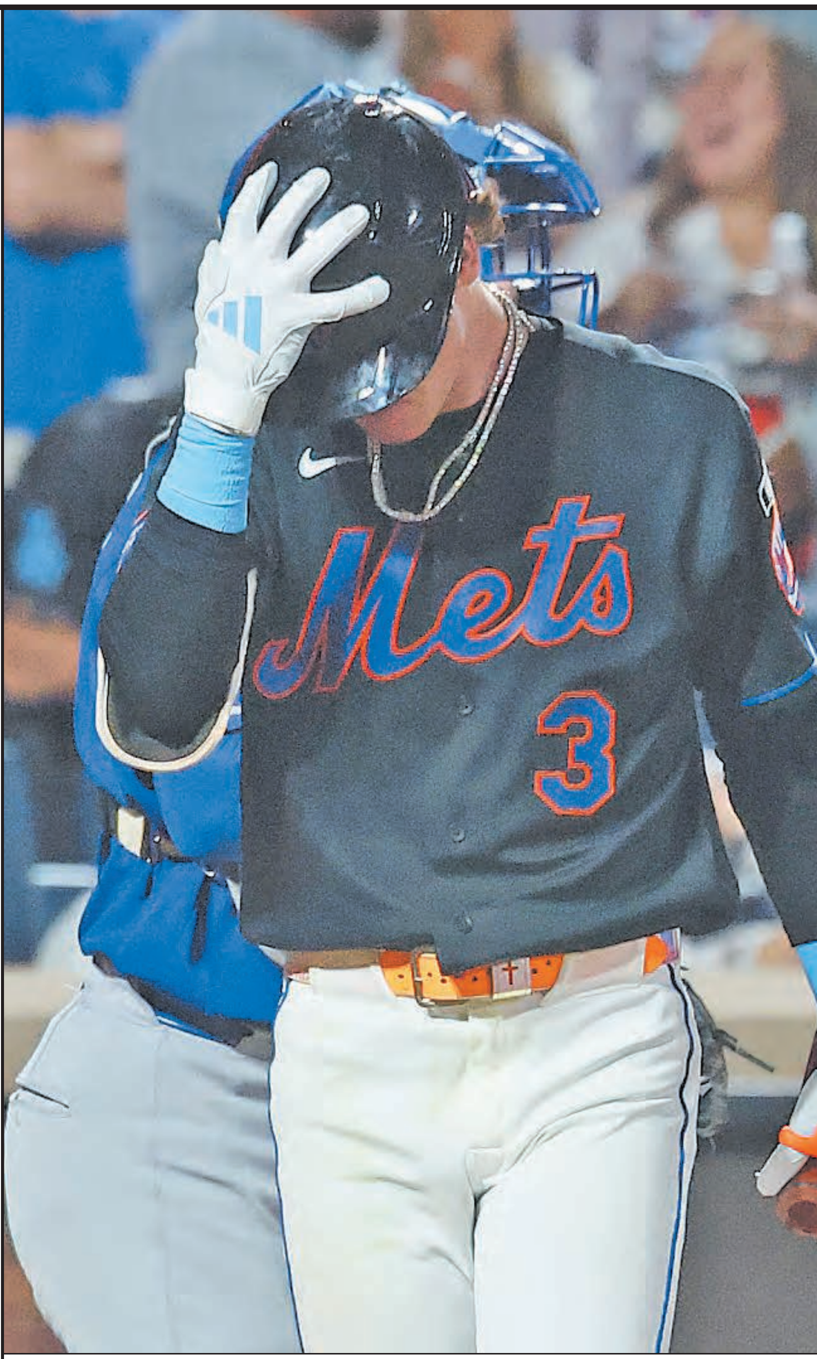
More Mets / Page 62



10 steps that this

Jon Heyman

METS BASEBALL president David Stearns is busy undoing what he's done, which won't be easy.

He hasn't had time to call, but I'm here to help.

The unpalatable combination of a second-in-MLB payroll ($380 million), a record only two games better than MLB's worst after the Mets' 4-3 defeat to the Dodgers on Saturday night, plus inconsistent prospect performances and an unusually weak list of available free agents makes a quick return to competitiveness difficult. They might have to bat close to 1.000 in their decisions to do it by next season, assuming there is a next season.

Mets owner Steve Cohen told us on our Post podcast "The Show" that he's "worried," and I see why.

Stearns is a smart guy, but he needs to rethink a few things. Here's our 10-point plan to start the Mets on their road to recovery.

1. Stop eliminating players just because they seek more than three years. As we've seen many times now, there is such a thing as a bad short-term deal. In fact, the Mets' best contracts might be the only two longer than three years, for Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor (though unfortunately, Soto is back on the IL with

Outside Citi limits

McLean's effort goes to waste as Amazin's fall to 19 games under .500

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The good news is the Mets are improving their MLB draft lottery odds with every loss.

Expect plenty of that the rest of the year, particularly with the news that Juan Soto is expected to be out for at least a month with a strained left calf in addition to the looming sell-off ahead of the Aug. 3 trade deadline.

For the second straight night, Dodgers fans made Citi Field sound like Chavez Ravine as the owners of the best record in baseball pulled out a 4-3 victory in Queens on Saturday night.

Nolan McLean wasn't helped by his defense — a Brett Baty throwing error and a Francisco Alvarez passed ball contributed to a three-run Dodgers third inning. The punchless Mets predictably couldn't touch Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who won for the 11th time this season. The right-hander pitched around trouble in the first, third and fifth innings, and delivered six innings of one-run ball. He held the Mets to 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position.

The loss marked the second time this season McLean has come up short against Yamamoto despite allowing just a total of three earned runs in 13 innings against the powerhouse Dodgers.

"That guy is unbelievable. It's fun to watch him at the same time," McLean said. "Wish he wouldn't pitch so good against us."

DODGERS	**4**
METS	**3**

Boxscore Page 58

McLean completed six innings for his seventh straight start, allowing just two earned runs. He struck out seven, walked two and allowed seven hits.

"I thought Nolan was solid. Short of spectacular, but solid," interim manager Andy Green said.

A two-run pinch-hit double by Tyrone Taylor in the eighth got the Mets within a run, but A.J. Ewing struck out to end the inning, and the Mets went down in order in the ninth.

They have now lost four of their past five games, falling to a season-low 19 games under .500 at 43-62. Only the Rockies have a worse record in the National League.

McLean allowed a leadoff homer in the third to Kyle Tucker, his second homer in as many days after entering the series with seven this season. The Mets courted Tucker in the winter, but lost out to the Dodgers. Then, the Mets let McLean down defensively. With one on and one out, Baty's throw hit the runner, setting the Dodgers up at first and third. McLean didn't help himself, failing to find the bag on a potential 3-6-1 double play that would've gotten him out of the inning.

Later in the frame, Alvarez boxed a breaking ball that popped in and out of his glove, enabling Andy Pages to score the third Dodgers run.

It is what Mets fans have come to expect from this team: sloppy play in the field and not enough of a response at the plate.

There were chants of "Let's go Dodgers" throughout this one-sided contest, starting at first pitch. Friday night, Mets fans booed down most of those chants. But perhaps taking a cue from the home team, they didn't show anywhere close to the same resistance a night later.

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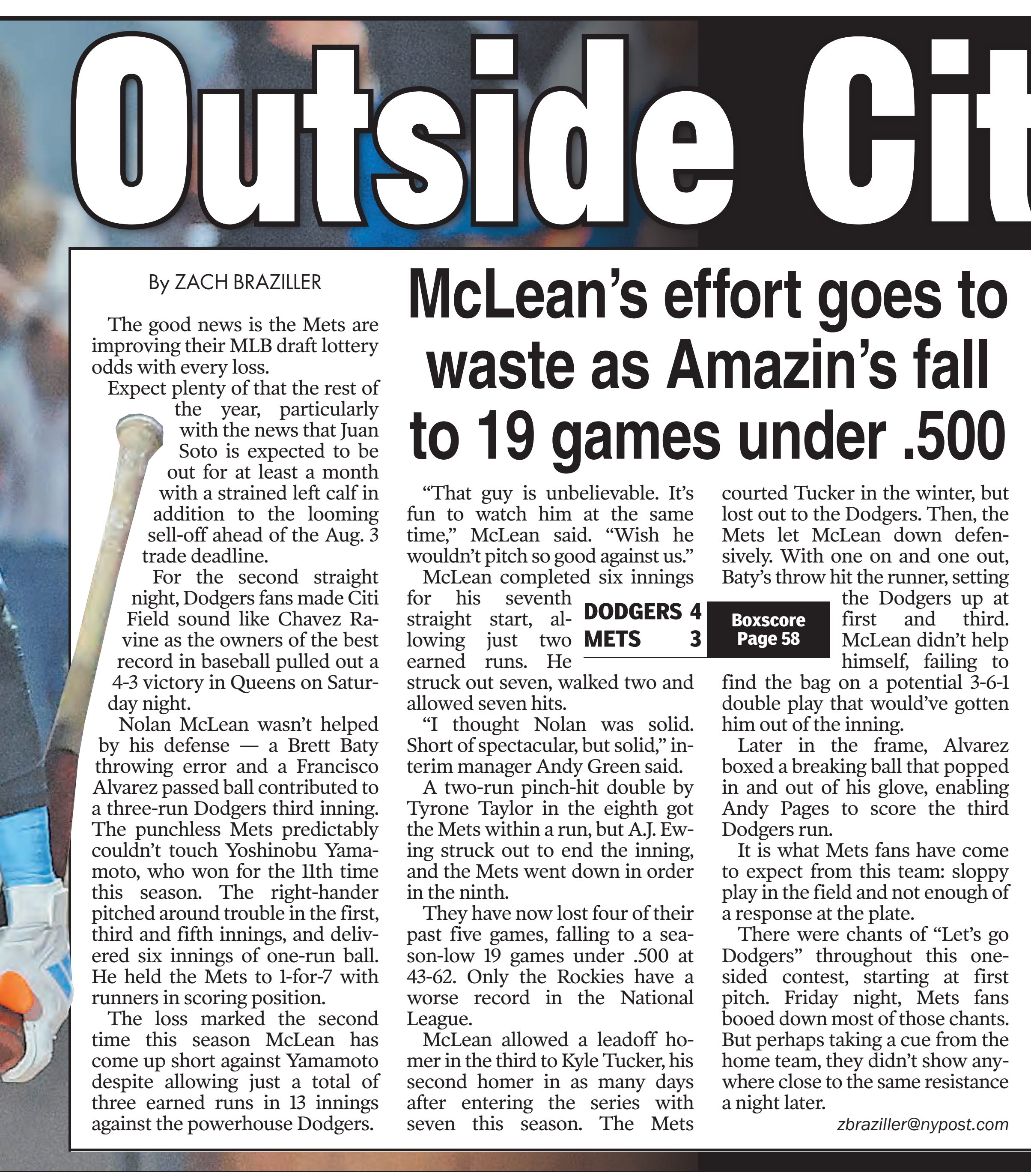

FLAILING & FAILING: Carson Benge hangs his head after striking out to end the Mets loss Saturday night. Robert Sabo

ON DECK: vs. Dodgers

Sunday, 1:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Freddy Peralta

2026 stats:
5-9, 5.01 ERA

Career vs. LAD:
4-2, 3.29 ERA

Last start:
Mon., at MIL;
5.1 IP, 8 H, 7 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

53%	21%	15%
4-Seamer	Changeup	Curveball

RHP Emmet Sheehan

2026 stats:
4-7, 5.13 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
First appearance

Last start:
Mon., at PHI;
5.1 IP, 8 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

42%	30%	17%
4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup

UP NEXT

MONDAY: vs. Braves, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
LHP Zac Thornton vs. LHP Martín Pérez

TUESDAY: vs. Braves, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Christian Scott vs. LHP Chris Sale

INJURY REPORT

- **Juan Soto** was placed on the injured list with a left calf strain Saturday. Interim manager Andy Green said this injury is more severe than his right calf strain in April, when he was out for just under three weeks. It is a Grade 2 strain. Eric Wagaman replaced Soto on the active roster.
- **Clay Holmes** is scheduled to throw a bullpen session Sunday. Holmes (fractured right fibula), who last pitched for the Mets on May 15, threw 51 pitches in his first rehabilitation outing Thursday for Triple-A Syracuse. The Mets have yet to announce if Holmes will make another minor league start or join them for his next time on the mound.

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train-wreck team can take to get on right track

another calf injury, and this obviously isn't Lindor's finest hour).

2. Do not trade Lindor now while his value is at a career low. Steve Cohen knows something about selling low, so I doubt I have to spend too much time on this concept. Besides, how do you replace a 30-30 shortstop? Barring a nonsensical trade of top young players for Zach Neto or C.J. Abrams, Lindor is irreplaceable. The shortstops who'll be free agents are J.P. Crawford, Ha-Seong Kim and Jorge Mateo. They won't do it.

3. Do trade Luke Weaver. Yes, Weaver is great, and yes, Weaver's signed for next year. But he's probably the guy they'll get the most for (assuming they don't trade Francisco Alvarez; more on that below). Every contender seeks bullpen help, and assuming Padres superstar closer Mason Miller stays put, Weaver might be the top reliever on the market. But like most relievers, he may not be great again next year. Regardless, he's twice as valuable for a contending team.

4. Do trade Huascar Brazobán. See above. And remember he's 36 and never had a season like this before.

5. Trade Francisco Alvarez. Yes, he's a plus hitter for a catcher. But he isn't exactly Mike Piazza. His career OPS+ is 106. But maybe the Mets can convince someone his best days are ahead. While they're at it, don't mention he's slipping defensively. Here's a quickie assessment from a scout: "Loses focus. Passed balls, wild pitches. He can throw, but he's all over the map." I'd ride with Luis Torrens, a great defender, and find another place on the map for Alvarez, if possible.

6. Of course, trade pending free agents Freddy Peralta, Clay Holmes (assuming they can't re-sign him reasonably, say for $60M for three years), A.J. Minter and Brooks Raley. None will bring a haul, but Peralta is well-priced ($3M to go) and he'll be better with a competent defense behind him.

7. Prioritize reliability. Pete Alonso should have been valued higher based on the power threat alone, but his attendance and attitude needed to be considered, too. He rolled over his vehicle on the way to spring training and walked away without a scratch. The man is indestructible and should have been considered indispensable. Meanwhile, the historically fragile Jorge Polanco and Luis Robert Jr. weren't worth the gamble.

Robert's injury actually allowed the Mets to call up A.J. Ewing, who's a revelation and now part of their small core. But I get why Ewing's displaced in center field for now. The Mets are trying hard to trade Robert, and with right-handed hitters in great demand — the Yankees, Red Sox, Phillies, Braves, Dodgers and Mariners all could use one — they might be able to do it.

8. Don't fear trading with the Yankees. Potential fits for the Yankees include ex-Yankees Weaver and Holmes plus Torrens and Robert (they tried for Robert last winter but didn't want to take the whole contract). Let's not forget how all the best Mets moves lately involve players/people coming from The Bronx: Besides Weaver and Holmes, there's Soto, Luis Severino and even Carlos Mendoza, who didn't deserve to be blamed. So do keep taking New York battle-tested guys.

9. Adjust/redo the coaching staff again. Last year's collapse wasn't the fault of the coaches, and the new group lacks experience. Coaches here should be seasoned, not just guys who know all the analytics buzzwords.

10. Hire more scouts. The Mets have only five pro scouts, making it tough to cover 29 other teams plus scores of minor leagues. The Dodgers, Rays and Yankees are considered about the most analytical teams, and they have among the most scouts, along with the Padres and Royals.

The Mets have among the fewest. Figure five more good ones cost $1M extra counting bennies and expenses, which doesn't even buy a decent utility player. Heaven knows they have the money. In many cases, they just need to use it better.

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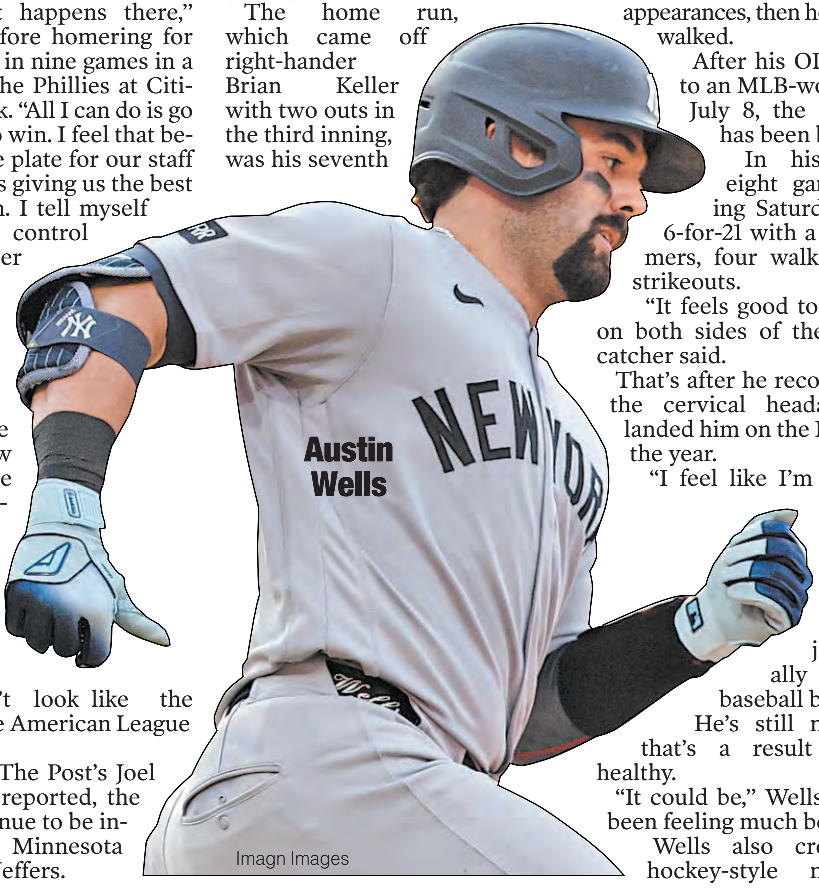
Wells keeps focus on what he can control

By DAN MARTIN



Imagn Images

PHILADELPHIA — It's too late at this point for Austin Wells to do anything to keep the Yankees from looking to add a catcher before the Aug. 3 trade deadline.

Wells is having another rough season at the plate, and the organization knows it needs an upgrade at the position.

He insisted Saturday that the situation isn't weighing on him as the deadline approaches.

"It's not because I can't control anything that happens there," Wells said before homering for the third time in nine games in a 3-1 win over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park. "All I can do is go play and try to win. I feel that being behind the plate for our staff and the guys is giving us the best chance to win. I tell myself that. I can't control anything other than that."

His success at becoming a solid defensive catcher has continued to surprise scouts who saw him in college and in the minors. But Wells' lack of production at the plate has bewildered them even more.

"He doesn't look like the same guy," one American League scout said.

It's why, as The Post's Joel Sherman has reported, the Yankees continue to be interested in Minnesota catcher Ryan Jeffers.

For now, though, Wells is splitting time with Ali Sánchez and getting some results.

The home run, which came off right-hander Brian Keller with two outs in the third inning, was his seventh of the year.

Wells entered Saturday having reached base in four straight plate appearances, then homered and walked.

After his OPS dropped to an MLB-worst .468 on July 8, the lefty hitter has been better.

In his previous eight games entering Saturday, he was 6-for-21 with a pair of homers, four walks and four strikeouts.

"It feels good to contribute on both sides of the ball," the catcher said.

That's after he recovered from the cervical headaches that landed him on the IL earlier in the year.

"I feel like I'm seeing the ball better, honestly," Wells said of the recent uptick. "I'm just generally seeing the baseball better."

He's still not sure if that's a result of being healthy.

"It could be," Wells said. "I've been feeling much better."

Wells also credited the hockey-style mask he's worn since returning.

"I'm still doing better every day," the catcher said. "I never dealt with something like this before and there's not a lot of research on this kind of [injury]."

He's hoping he's turned a corner at the plate.

Even with that improvement, Wells entered Saturday with the worst batting average (.163) of any player in the majors with 220 plate appearances this season.

His .262 on-base percentage and .524 OPS are also the second worst of the 241 hitters with that many plate appearances.

"Obviously, we expect a lot more of him offensively, but he knows he can hit," Aaron Boone said. "He knows he's a better hitter than he's shown this year. It's tough to deal with, but he's also mature enough and advanced enough in his career that he understands the importance of being behind the plate every single day and the role of limiting runs and helping the pitching staff. He's done a really good job of separating it."

"That's my No. 1 job: being able to lock in on defense and focus to have great games with our pitchers," Wells said. "That takes a lot of the weight of the results off the hitting side away, but I know I can hit better than I've shown."

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Bellinger's hamstring rings alarm bells

By DAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — Already without Aaron Judge, the Yankees may be down another key outfielder, as Cody Bellinger left Saturday's 3-1 win over the Phillies with left hamstring tightness.

Bellinger suffered the injury running to second base on his two-out double in the top of the eighth.

After sliding into second and appearing hobbled, Bellinger waved off the trainers and remained in the game.

But he was replaced in left field by Max Schuemann in the bottom of the inning and will likely undergo tests Sunday — with an IL stint not ruled out.

"I felt something rounding first and it got tight and thought it was smart to get out [of the game]," Bellinger said. "We'll see how I feel [Sunday]."

Bellinger added, "I really don't think it's anything too serious."

Still, Aaron Boone noted the possibility they could lose Bellinger for an extended stretch and acknowledged he was "alarmed" by it.

"It looks like it could be something," the manager said.

The left fielder spent time on the IL in 2021 due to left hamstring tightness while with the Dodgers, missing 10 games.

Schuemann would likely be in the lineup Sunday against Philadelphia lefty Cristopher Sánchez.

After that, Boone said, "We'll do what we have to do [and] piece it together ... [Bellinger] is a huge member of the team. He's a tremendous all-around player. I hope it's on the minor side."

If Bellinger has to sit out, it comes at an inopportune time for the Yankees.

He's hit better over his last dozen games after slumping at the plate for most of the past month.

Bellinger entered Saturday with just five extra-base hits, all doubles, in his previous 30 games.

His OPS over that span was .535 after posting an .860 OPS in his first 71 games.

Prior to the injury Saturday, he had an RBI single and then the double in the win.

"I felt good from Washington on," Bellinger said of the final series heading into the All-Star break. "The cold stretch there was way longer than I wanted it to be."

And Bellinger has continued to be superb in left field.

"He's been so good out there," Boone said before the game. "I've leaned more on leaving him there on days instead of moving him to center or right. His left field [play] is so stellar."

The Yankees offense has taken a serious downturn in recent weeks, with the indefinite loss of Judge due to a fractured rib taking a toll.

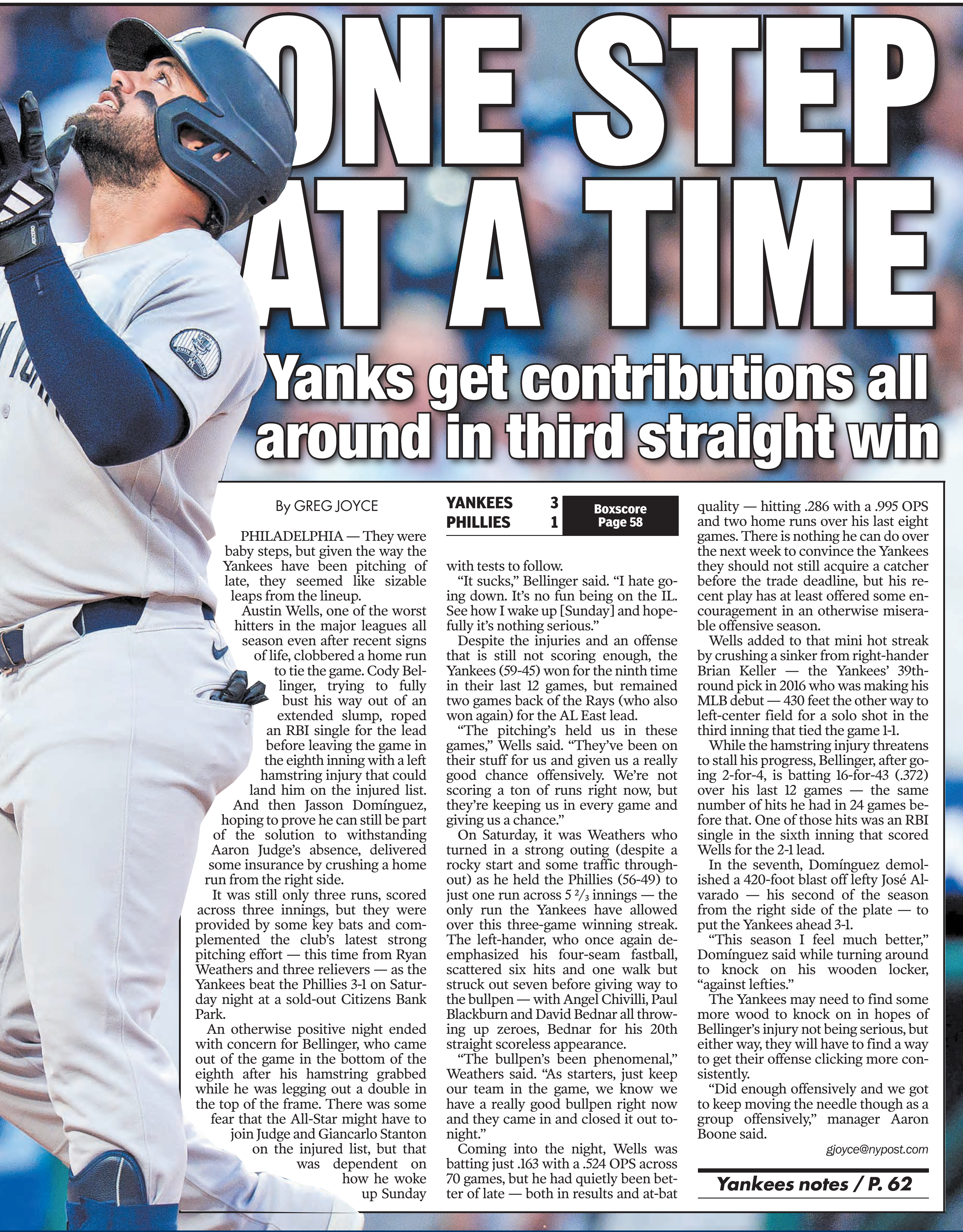
While Bellinger hasn't maintained his torrid early pace at the plate, his presence in the middle of the lineup is still crucial.

MARTIAN BOMB: Jasson Domínguez reacts as he crosses home plate following his seventh-inning home run against the Phillies on Saturday.
AP

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Yanks get contributions all around in third straight win



By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES	**3**	**Boxscore Page 58**
PHILLIES	**1**	

PHILADELPHIA — They were baby steps, but given the way the Yankees have been pitching of late, they seemed like sizable leaps from the lineup.

Austin Wells, one of the worst hitters in the major leagues all season even after recent signs of life, clobbered a home run to tie the game. Cody Bellinger, trying to fully bust his way out of an extended slump, roped an RBI single for the lead before leaving the game in the eighth inning with a left hamstring injury that could land him on the injured list. And then Jasson Domínguez, hoping to prove he can still be part of the solution to withstanding Aaron Judge's absence, delivered some insurance by crushing a home run from the right side.

It was still only three runs, scored across three innings, but they were provided by some key bats and complemented the club's latest strong pitching effort — this time from Ryan Weathers and three relievers — as the Yankees beat the Phillies 3-1 on Saturday night at a sold-out Citizens Bank Park.

An otherwise positive night ended with concern for Bellinger, who came out of the game in the bottom of the eighth after his hamstring grabbed while he was legging out a double in the top of the frame. There was some fear that the All-Star might have to join Judge and Giancarlo Stanton on the injured list, but that was dependent on how he woke up Sunday with tests to follow.

"It sucks," Bellinger said. "I hate going down. It's no fun being on the IL. See how I wake up [Sunday] and hopefully it's nothing serious."

Despite the injuries and an offense that is still not scoring enough, the Yankees (59-45) won for the ninth time in their last 12 games, but remained two games back of the Rays (who also won again) for the AL East lead.

"The pitching's held us in these games," Wells said. "They've been on their stuff for us and given us a really good chance offensively. We're not scoring a ton of runs right now, but they're keeping us in every game and giving us a chance."

On Saturday, it was Weathers who turned in a strong outing (despite a rocky start and some traffic throughout) as he held the Phillies (56-49) to just one run across 5 ²/₃ innings — the only run the Yankees have allowed over this three-game winning streak. The left-hander, who once again de-emphasized his four-seam fastball, scattered six hits and one walk but struck out seven before giving way to the bullpen — with Angel Chivilli, Paul Blackburn and David Bednar all throwing up zeroes, Bednar for his 20th straight scoreless appearance.

"The bullpen's been phenomenal," Weathers said. "As starters, just keep our team in the game, we know we have a really good bullpen right now and they came in and closed it out tonight."

Coming into the night, Wells was batting just .163 with a .524 OPS across 70 games, but he had quietly been better of late — both in results and at-bat quality — hitting .286 with a .995 OPS and two home runs over his last eight games. There is nothing he can do over the next week to convince the Yankees they should not still acquire a catcher before the trade deadline, but his recent play has at least offered some encouragement in an otherwise miserable offensive season.

Wells added to that mini hot streak by crushing a sinker from right-hander Brian Keller — the Yankees' 39th-round pick in 2016 who was making his MLB debut — 430 feet the other way to left-center field for a solo shot in the third inning that tied the game 1-1.

While the hamstring injury threatens to stall his progress, Bellinger, after going 2-for-4, is batting 16-for-43 (.372) over his last 12 games — the same number of hits he had in 24 games before that. One of those hits was an RBI single in the sixth inning that scored Wells for the 2-1 lead.

In the seventh, Domínguez demolished a 420-foot blast off lefty José Alvarado — his second of the season from the right side of the plate — to put the Yankees ahead 3-1.

"This season I feel much better," Domínguez said while turning around to knock on his wooden locker, "against lefties."

The Yankees may need to find some more wood to knock on in hopes of Bellinger's injury not being serious, but either way, they will have to find a way to get their offense clicking more consistently.

"Did enough offensively and we got to keep moving the needle though as a group offensively," manager Aaron Boone said.

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Yankees notes / P. 62

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INJURY REPORT

- **Aaron Judge** (right rib stress fracture) continues to feel better, but the Yankees say they still do not know when he might undergo more imaging.
- Giancarlo Stanton (right calf strain) is in the midst of a running progression but remains without a timeline for a return three months after suffering the initial injury.

ON DECK

at Phillies

Sunday, 7:20 p.m., NBC, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Will Warren

2026 stats:
7-4, 4.00 ERA

Career vs. PHI:
0-0, 4.91 ERA

Last start:
July 12, at WAS;
5 IP, 4 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Sinker	Sweeper
39%	27%	20%

LHP Cristopher Sánchez

2026 stats:
12-4, 2.71 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-1, 10.80 ERA

Last start:
Mon., vs. LAD;
5.1 IP, 7 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

Sinker	Changeup	Slider
43%	39%	19%

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at White Sox,
7:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD
vs. TBD

TUESDAY: at White Sox,
7:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD
vs. TBD

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

PHILLY BUSTERS!

GRITTY YANKS SCRATCH OUT WIN, CODY HURT / P. 87-86, 62

SEE YA, SOTO

AMAZIN' SLUGGER OUT FOR WEEKS, METS FALL TO L.A.

PAGES 85-84, 62

NEW YORK POST
SUNDAY Sports
JULY 26, 2026

Jenifer Cozzolino / NY Post Design

TRAINING CAMP PREVIEW

Giant crown ultimate goal for King John & Prince Dart

SERBY / PAGES 77-76

ROYAL BLUE

New Giants coach John Harbaugh was the prize addition of the offseason, hired to lead Big Blue to a Super Bowl title. QB Jaxson Dart will be his top soldier in that quest. They begin their journey when training camp opens Tuesday.

FULL COVERAGE / P. 77-72

TRY THAT AGAIN, GANG

GLENN EYES REBOUND WITH HIS REBUILT JETS / P. 71-68

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